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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XX, Issue No. 74 | MONDAY MARCH 29, 2010 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

POLL RESULTS

Have you encountered any problems entering or exiting the CNMI since federal authorities took over immigration functions at the airport?

Yes	19
No	64

Sunday, March 28, 2010

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NJFL Champions

Eleven students will represent the CNMI in this year's National Junior Forensic League.

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"Smart" meters designed to help deliver electricity more efficiently also have flaws.

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Earth Hour

The world's best known landmarks fell dark Saturday to mark Earth Hour.

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Froilan to seek High Court's help to resolve LB chief issue. PAGE 2

23 enlist in Guam National Guard; a historic 'first' for NMI. PAGE 6

Aldan wins NI special polls

Northern Islands mayor-elect Tobias DLC Aldan, right, celebrates with his campaign manager, Henry Litulumar, left, in Garapan on Saturday night.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

After months of confusion, Northern Islands residents now have somebody they can call their mayor: independent candidate Tobias Aldan, who was declared the winner in the special election held Saturday.

See ALDAN on Page 4

Fitch removes CPA from 'watch negative' rating

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Fitch Ratings has removed the Commonwealth Ports Authority's 1998 airport revenue bonds from rating Watch Negative due to major improvements being made at the agency but affirmed the bonds' triple C ("CCC") grade, indicating that significant credit risks still remain.

In a statement issued Thursday last

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Austerity bill a tough sell at the Senate

» **Senators, House members willing to voluntarily cut pay if it becomes law**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Senators are lukewarm to the administration-backed austerity bill that the House of Representatives passed on Thursday, but most Senate and House members surveyed yesterday said they will voluntarily cut their salaries by 12.5 percent should the contentious measure becomes law.

Even House members who voted against the austerity measure said they would submit to a voluntary pay cut should it become law.

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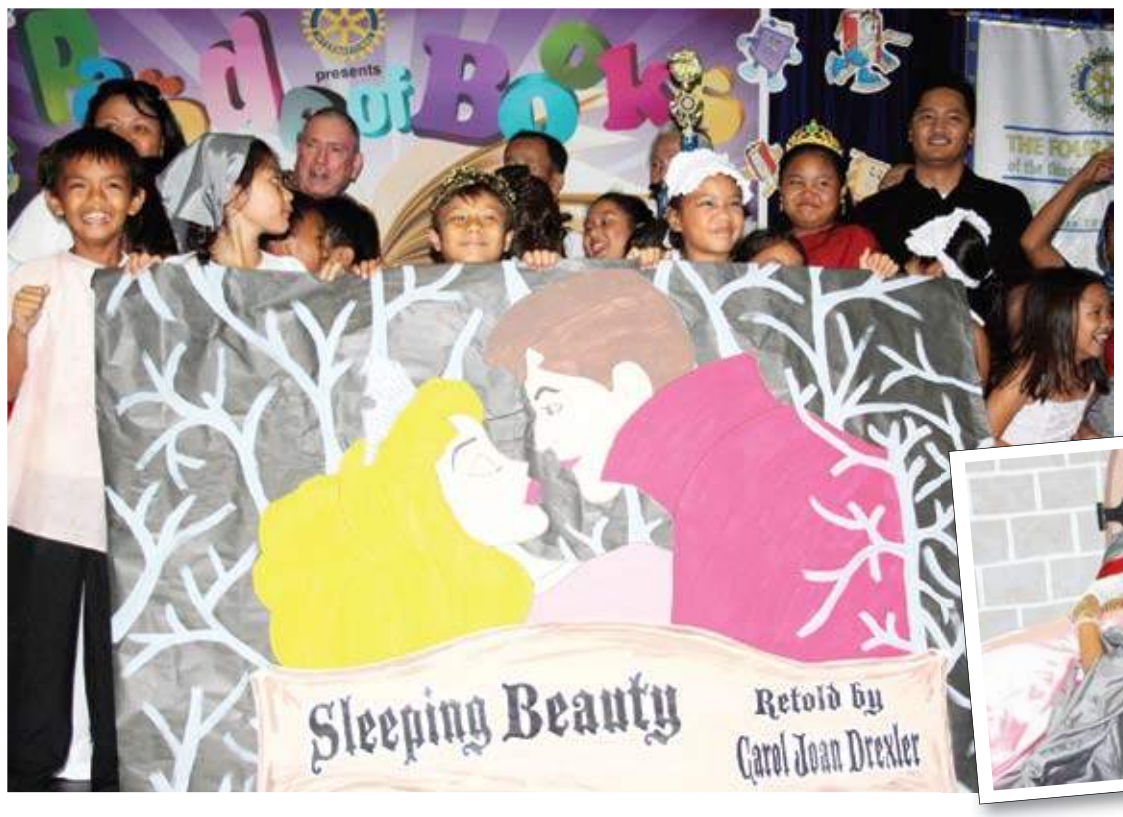

GES bags Parade of Books grand prize

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

In a stunning upset, the 27-member Garapan Elementary School team grabbed this year's grand prize from under the nose of defending champion Oleai Elementary School and 12 other private and public schools to romp off with the top honors in the Sixth Annual Parade of Books competition, held

See GES on Page 4

Garapan Elementary School students crowd the stage to receive their trophy for winning the first place for their presentation, *Sleeping Beauty*, at the Rotary Club of Saipan's 6th Annual Parade of Books on Saturday afternoon in the Marianas High School gymnasium. Other photo shows a scene from their winning performance.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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Local

Froilan to seek High Court's help to resolve LB chief issue

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

House Speaker Froilan C. Tenorio (Cov-Saipan) said he will ask the CNMI Supreme Court as early as this week to clarify whether or not Legislative Bureau director Glenna Reyes is legally holding her post even if a new Legislature was sworn into office on Jan. 11, 2010.

"It's not a dead issue yet. I am going to the Supreme Court and I will eventually prevail. I am going to win this," Tenorio said, referring to a certified question to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Reyes, when asked for comment yesterday, said she respects Tenorio's decision to seek assistance from the courts but did not comment further.

Tenorio said the Constitution requires the Legislative Bureau director to vacate his or her post when a new Legislature comes into office. The 17th Legislature was sworn into office on Jan. 11, 2010.

"In other words, she shouldn't be in there right now," Tenorio told *Saipan Tribune*. "Every time a new legislature comes in, that legislature should have the right or the opportunity to appoint its own director. Aside from that, the appointment letter, when she was appointed two years ago, made it very clear that her appointment expired Jan 11, 2010."

Reyes' original appointment letter stated a Jan. 11, 2010 expiration date. But some two months before the expiration of Reyes contract, or on Nov. 12, 2009, then House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and then Sen. Frica Pangelinan extended her contract until Sept. 30, 2010.

The current Senate president, Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), whose concurrence is needed to terminate or hire a Legislative Bureau director, said the Legislature should respect Reyes' existing contract.

Reyes also said that she's obligated by her contract to report for work until Sept. 30, 2010.

In January, Tenorio asked Reyes to vacate her office as soon as possible.

"I respectfully regret that I am unable to fulfill your requests," Reyes told the speaker in her response letter. The impasse remains to this day.

AG implements changes in Criminal Division

Joseph J. Przyuski, a special prosecutor who handles white-collar crimes, was recently pulled out from the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division as part of many other changes at the OAG's Criminal Division.

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said he decided to withdraw Przyuski from OPA, saying his work at OPA was a duplication of his job at the OAG.

"Just like I believe we shouldn't duplicate Department of Public Safety work, I don't think the [Public] Auditor should duplicate prosecution work," he said.

Przyuski was the one who handled the case involving former Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Rex I. Palacios, former chairman of the defunct Commonwealth Telecommunications Commission James Michael P. Fitzgerald, and three government employees who allegedly cheated on the timecards of co-workers.

With a new chief prosecutor, former Rep. Rosemond Santos, Buckingham said they made a number of changes in the OAG's Criminal Division, chief of which is a new directive to strengthen victim notification.

"We, the chief prosecutor and I, have begun case reviews with each prosecutor in the office. We take four active cases and two closed cases at random, review them, and then meet with the individual prosecutor to discuss their performance," Buckingham said.

He said this new process is designed to improve both performance and accountability.

The other recent change, the AG said, was with respect to investigators.

"We have 11 investigators recently. This seemed to me to be too much duplication of work that should be done by the DPS. So, we changed things," Buckingham said.

Now, he said, the OAG has people who used to be investigators working with attorney to create work teams.

"Their role is to serve as legal assistants. I retained one person as our investigator. He is Vince Babauta. He recently completed the investigation requested by the Northern Marianas College," Buckingham said. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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ADVICE TO CONFUSED WORKERS, EMPLOYERS

'Continue coordinating with CNMI Labor'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham said alien workers and employers who are confused about the conflicting views of the federal and CNMI governments on umbrella permits should continue to coordinate with the Department of Labor.

Buckingham told *Saipan Tribune* that workers should attend to their scheduled return date to Labor and continue to obey all CNMI and U.S. laws.

"I have a legal opinion on this matter (umbrella permits issue)," Buckingham said, adding that he respects a difference of opinion with federal officials.

The federal government's position is that the CNMI Labor lost its authority to revoke the umbrella permits after the federalization law took effect on Nov. 28, 2009. CNMI Labor and Buckingham dispute this.

Buckingham

Walter Haith, the Guam/CNMI U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services field office director, said in a recent forum that the federal government is certain in its views on the umbrella permit and authority over nonresident workers, but it is ultimately the decision of workers and employers whom they will believe and follow.

The CIS official also suggested to workers and employers to see their office or Federal Ombudsman Pamela Brown if they have problems with their umbrella permits.

Haith said employers should also consult their legal counsel if they have doubts.

Buckingham disclosed that Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents continue to work with Labor at the operational level.

"We have a recent case where the ICE agent inquired about the umbrella permit. Labor advised them there was a permit," Buckingham said.

The ICE agent, the AG said, stated that the foreign national worker had been convicted of a sex offense against a minor and if Labor would revoke the umbrella permit.

"Labor said it would take steps to revoke. ICE said it would work with Labor after the umbrella permit was revoked so the person could be deported," Buckingham added.

Workers and employers urged to unite, take legal action vs PL 17-1

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Human rights advocate Wendy Doromal has urged alien workers and employers to unite and take legal action against the CNMI government for enacting the omnibus immigration bill.

"It is time to take the CNMI government to court to stop this law and the constant discrimination and retaliation against the foreign national workforce," said Doromal in her blog *Unheard No More* (http://unheardnomore.blogspot.com/).

Doromal asked people to send out an appeal for help in putting an end to Public Law 17-1, which she described as a "discriminatory and outrageous law."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Monday signed into law the administration-proposed omnibus immigration bill that asserts CNMI control over nonresident workers. The new law also removes all references to immigration and deportation from the Commonwealth Code to conform with the federalization law.

Doromal invited people to join her in taking a stand against the Foreign National IdentificationSystem that is part of Public Law 17-1.

"Take a stand against the quota system for employers! Take a stand against the fees and fines! Take a stand against the propaganda!" she said.

She urged support for the federal government's position on umbrella permits and control over immigration and the alien workforce.

"It's time to tell the world what is happening to the foreign nationals in the U.S. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to ask them to help," Doromal added.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed said they agree with Doromal that P.L. 17-1 is a "bad and discriminatory law."

Syed said they believe that only the courts can decide the issue so they are in the process of talking with different lawyers.

He said their group is planning to hold a consultation meeting with alien workers and lawyers on April 7 to discuss any legal action, among other issues.

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GES

From Page 1

Saturday at the Marianas High School gymnasium.

The unexpected win came as a surprise to the team, which wowed the crowd and got the approving nod of the judges with their take on the popular children's story *Sleeping Beauty.*

The Garapan school went home with the grand prize trophy and a $1,000 cash prize from the Saipan Rotary Club, which organized the event.

Unexpected

Nine-year-old Erica Tubera, who played the role of Princess Aurora, said their victory was truly unexpected.

"I am so happy…because we got it! This is so unexpected and we're so very proud of our school!" the third grader told *Saipan Tribune* after the event.

Tubera said it took the team a lot of effort to perfect their award-winning presentation.

The GES team was directed by teachers Lori Terre, Claire Dela Cruz, and Lorraine Arriola.

Saipan Tribune learned that GES has been participating in the event for five years now. This was the first time they actually won the championship. They won third place last year.

Echoing her students, Terre said they never expected to win the grand prize because of the equally tough competitive teams from various schools.

"I can't explain [the feeling]. It's like out of the world...I can't believe it! But our students worked hard for this presentation and they've been practicing since December. We're very happy," she said.

"A lot of schools really raised the bar and we just told our kids that we're here to have fun. If they win, that's great! But if not, at least they had fun," she said.

Terre said the cash prize will be used to increase literacy in classrooms.

This year's *Sleeping Beauty* entry was chosen by the students, according to the directors.

Other winners

Koblerville Elementary School, which presented *Aladdin*, was named the second best team and was awarded a trophy and $750 cash prize.

The Golden Harvest School team, composed of kindergarten students, garnered third place, receiving a cash prize of $500 for their winning portrayal of *Beauty and the Beast.*

San Vicente Elementary School made it to fourth place with *Alice in Wonderland*, while Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School students rounded out the top five with their take on *Sirena*. The schools were awarded $300 and $200 cash prizes respectively.

San Vicente Elementary School got two special awards: the Best Spirit Award and the Best Director Award. Team members were given 30 water passes, courtesy of Pacific Islands Club, and an overnight stay for two at the hotel.

Saipan Rotary Club President Kim Forrester, who expressed satisfaction with the overall turnout, said the event just keeps "getting better every year." He promised that the Rotary will continue hosting the competition for elementary students.

"The enthusiasm was great and everybody was really excited. All the schools did well…this competition is getting better every year," he said.

Besides the individual school performances, children of various ages also wowed the crowd inside the MHS gymnasium with a dance showdown.

A total of 14 schools participated in this year's competition, including the Tinian Elementary School and Sinapalo Elementary School on Rota.

Forrester said the competition was organized to primarily promote literacy among children.

AUSTERITY

From Page 1

"It will be an injustice not to do so even for us who voted against it," said House Minority Leader Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan).

House Bill 17-45, introduced by House Ways and Means Committee chair Ramon Basa (Cov-Saipan), reduces government work hours by one hour every work day for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2010.

This means that government work hours across-the-board will be cut to 70 per pay period instead of the regular 80. The austerity bill seeks to cut government cost by some $4.5 million.

Lawmakers and other constitutionally protected positions are exempt from the proposed austerity, but they are encouraged to submit to a voluntary pay cut also of 12.5 percent which is equal to the cut to be borne by all other government employees.

The Senate may take up the austerity bill on April 1.

Sen. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan) said he has lots of concerns about House Bill 17-45, primarily its impact on low-wage earning families. He is calling for a public hearing on the bill.

"It's not so much about the effects to those earning $50,000 annually. How about those earning only $9,500 or $12,000 or $13,000 a year? If you take 12.5 percent from their salaries, their families will be hurt. How else would they pay for their basic needs? I would like to have a public hearing on the bill so we would hear directly from the people. I would like to know what their sentiments are on this bill," he said.

But just like many lawmakers, Torres said he will be willing to have a 12.5 percent pay cut should the bill becomes law.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota) said he would like to see a bill that is "fair," but could not say whether he will vote "yes" or "no" on the bill.

He said he will be the first one to have a voluntary pay cut should the bill becomes law, adding that he has already been contributing to the reduction in government costs by not having a vehicle lease.

Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee chair Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) said she may be able to decide on the bill after her committee meets today, but said there may be alternative solutions to the government's financial crisis.

"I don't want to state my position now. I would still like to hear from committee members," she said.

'Lead by example'

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro (Cov-Saipan) and Rep. Frank Dela Cruz separately said they will "definitely" submit to a voluntary salary reduction should the austerity bill becomes law.

"As soon as the governor signs it into law, I will have my salary cut," Ogumoro said.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan) said he will do so again, just like what he did in the 15th Legislature when austerity measure was implemented.

"At that time, there were only four of us who volunteered to cut our salaries, including me, [Absalon] Waki, Cinta [Kaipat], and Justo [Quitugua]," he said.

Rep. Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan) said he'd rather have a pay reduction than have other government employees lose their jobs.

"I don't want to see people laid off. Whatever percentage cut from my salary is required, I will take it. I want to help people, that's why I voted for the austerity bill," said Cabrera, the only Republican who voted "yes" on H.B. 17-45.

Rep. Sylvester Iguel (Cov-Saipan) said he will "definitely have a voluntary pay cut."

"If we are calling for a pay cut for all government employees, we need to cut our salaries first as lawmakers. I hope all those who voted for it should do the same," he said.

Of the 19 members present at the House session on Thursday, seven Covenant Party members, three independents, and one Republican voted "yes," while eight Republicans voted "no."

Rep. Trenton B. Conner (R-Tinian), who voted against the bill, said as a leader, he would set an example by having his salary reduced should the measure becomes law.

"What I don't agree on, even if I reduce my salary by 12.5 percent, would the administration and others do the same?" he added.

Rep. Teresita Santos (Ind-Rota) said she will also submit to a voluntary pay reduction to lead by example.

"I do share the sentiments of those who testified against the bill. But the one-hour reduction [per day] is the most practical approach to prevent further erosion of our economic situation, avert payless paydays and potential furloughs of those under excepted service contracts and limited term appointments," she said.

She said she'd rather see pay cuts than have people lose their jobs, including almost a hundred employees at the Rota Mayor's Office.

Rep. Joseph Palacios (R-Saipan) said he will also have his salary cut if H.B. 17-45 becomes law.

Besides lawmakers, the bill also encourages the governor, the lieutenant governor, justices, and judges-who have constitutionally protected salaries-to waive 12.5 percent of their salaries and donate them to the general fund.

FITCH

From Page 1

week, Fitch said the outlook for CPA's outstanding 1998 senior series A airport revenue bonds is still negative. The bonds, worth $15 million, are secured by a pledge of net revenues.

Fitch Ratings said the "CCC" grade indicates that a limited margin of safety remains due to the declining activity levels in the CNMI's tourist-based economy.

Fitch Ratings is a global rating agency for credit markets.

Fitch's decision to remove CPA from watch negative was prompted by recent actions CPA took to prevent further deterioration in its ability to service the 1998 series A debt.

It said CPA has narrowed its revenue shortfall by enforcing austerity measures and reinstating airline rates. It also considered the efforts initiated by CPA in improving income from non-aeronautical revenues. Besides airport fees and other charges, CPA also generate revenues from leases and concessionaires at the airport property.

Fitch specifically cited the reimbursements CPA is now receiving from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. and the grants it received from the Transportation Security Administration and Department of Homeland Security. These are for works done on airport property.

Fitch noted that the credit is also strengthened by the vital roles the airports play as key gateways to and within the CNMI as well as the Commonwealth's ability to continue to draw visitors from new markets in Korea, Russia, China, and the Philippines.

It was revealed that the strong presence of Asiana Airlines in 2009 was among the key reasons for the improved rating.

Fitch noted 125,130 enplanements at Saipan International Airport in 2009—a 64.7 percent increase from 2005.

It also noted the successful implementation of passenger facility charge and CPA's proven history of obtaining FAA grants as well as strong relationships with the CNMI government.

CPA board vice chair Thomas Kiyu Villagomez yesterday welcomed the good news. He described CPA's removal from watch negative as "paying off time" for all the sacrifices of the agency and its employees just to meet its obligations.

Despite the bad economy, Villagomez remains optimistic that CPA could perform its functions well by initiating some sacrifices such as across the board work reduction in all levels, travel bans, and pursuing collections due CPA, among others.

Villagomez also cited the key function performed by the agency's fiscal and personnel committee, chaired by board member Barrie Toves, who closely monitor the financials of CPA.

"For the last two years, CPA have been initiating a lot of good works and sacrifices just to make sure that we will survive. This is good news and I think it's paying off [those sacrifices]," he told *Saipan Tribune.*

'Continued volatility'

Despite removal from watch negative, Fitch expects that CPA will continue to experience volatility in the years ahead because of fluctuation in operations due to a weak economy, driven solely by a diminished tourism industry and loss of the garment industry.

ALDAN

From Page 1

The Commonwealth Election Commission certified Aldan as the winning candidate after posting a margin of 20 votes over his lone opponent, Ramona Rebuenog of the Covenant Party.

Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero said a total of 120 votes were counted and certified. Aldan got 70 votes over Rebuenog's 50 votes.

There were a total of 124 votes cast in the election, with four absentee votes determined as "rejected votes."

Guerrero said absentee ballots, including off-island and on-island, totaled 43, of which 39 were determined valid votes.

The agency had a total of 131 registered voters for the Northern Islands' special election.

As soon as the polling place closed at 5:30pm, the counting started and the board certified the results at 6:30pm, Guerrero said.

Aldan, 63, vowed to do his best to serve his constituents in the Northern Islands.

In a visit to the victory party of the winning candidate, nearly a hundred attendees were seen congratulating Aldan for his success.

The new mayor extended his appreciation to voters who gave their support and trust in his promise of a new leadership.

Aldan first ran for mayor of the Northern Islands in 2007 under the Covenant Party. He was defeated then by previous mayor Valentin Taisakan.

According to Henry Litulumar, chairman of the committee to elect Aldan, the decision to go independent was due to financial reasons.

Litulumar said that in order for a candidate to be included in a political party, a certain amount is required for inclusion.

"About four years ago, we were one of the big supporters of the Covenant Party and we managed to put them into office. But due to financial constraint, we had to go independent now…because there's a big chunk of money required to be in a party. That's the only reason we went independent," he explained.

Aldan and Litulumar vowed to work closely with the Fitial administration because they are convinced that the governor—regardless of political affiliation—has only one mission: that of helping the Northern Islands and its people.

Aldan and Rebuenog were also the opponents in the November 2009 general election. At that time, Aldan also won the election but Rebuenog contested the results, saying that some illegal votes were counted and that she had the most number of valid votes.

The case went to court and Rebuenog was awarded the position. Aldan, however, appealed to the Supreme Court, which overturned the trial court ruling and ordered the election commission to conduct a new election for the Northern Islands.

"We hope this is over. Like what happened in the general election where we won by one vote, the majority have now spoken and we won—this time—by 20 votes," Litulumar said.

Although the results of the new election have already been certified, the losing candidate still has the opportunity to challenge the result. The new mayor's camp assured that "we're ready for that."

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The 11 students who will represent the CNMI in the National Junior Forensic League competition in Iowa have their picture taken after being declared the winners in the regional competition held Saturday at Hopwood Junior High School.

11 junior high students advance to NJFL nat'l contest

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Eleven students will represent the CNMI in an upcoming national tournament in speech events this year after winning gold medals in the National Junior Forensic League regional competition held Saturday at Hopwood Junior High School.

The CNMI Team for the NJFL national competition includes the tandem of Marianas Baptist Academy's Ashley Ayuyu and Alina Ishikowa, who won the gold medal for duo interpretation; MBA's Kanata Omori, the grand winner in the extemporaneous event; Mount Carmel School's Darvhan Moses for story telling; and Saipan Community School's Eron Constante for impromptu.

Other members of the national team are Hopwood's Matthew Lopez, for original oratory; Grace Christian Academy's Dong Ha Lee, for prose; GCA's Kimiko Tenorio, for poetry; Calvary Christian Academy's Devonne Dotts, for humorous interpretation; MBA's Sang Hyuk Park, for dramatic interpretation; and MBA's Hye Young Oh, for the Lincoln Douglas Debate.

Less than a hundred sixth to eight grade students joined over 300 event entries during the rigorous elimination rounds of the contest.

Harold Easton, NFL board chairman in the CNMI, said the national tournament will be held on June 24-27 this year in Des Moines, Iowa.

Two other gold medalists from the regional Chamorro Language Competition will be named members to complete the full slate of the NJFL national team.

Twelve-year-old Kanata Omori vowed to give his best shot at the national competition.

"This is my first time to be in the national team…and I would do my best to represent the CNMI. I thank God for everything he's given me and for providing me this opportunity," Omori said.

Hopwood's pride Matthew Lopez, 14, also expressed excitement at the prospect of competing in the U.S. mainland. He said he's been practicing for the NJFL since last year.

Every year, the CNMI team always shines in the national event and Easton said he expects no difference this year.

"Our students have always done very well in the national events…and I don't expect this team to be any different. If they do better today, they will do their best in the national. They always bring a lot of hard work every year and we're confident they can do more this year," Easton said.

Nine middle schools from both public and private participated in this year's regional rounds.

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23 enlist in Guam National Guard; a historic 'first' for NMI

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, right, adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, administers the oath of enlistment for 23 CNMI residents during Friday night's National Guard enlistment ceremony at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe. They are the pioneer members from the CNMI.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For Anamaria Inos, 17, joining the Guam Army National Guard has more to do with building personal discipline and education than the financial benefits. "For me, it makes you a better person. It makes you a more disciplined individual," the senior student at Saipan Southern High School said.

For friends Josh Ejercito, 17, and Julius Rey Barro, 17, also of Saipan Southern High School, free college tuition, the opportunity to travel and help their families financially rank high among their reasons for joining the National Guard.

"I am thankful we're given this opportunity. By joining the National Guard, I will be able to pursue a master's degree in computer and automotive engineering, and also help my family," Barro told Saipan Tribune.

Inos, Ejercito and Barro were among the 25 young CNMI residents who were sworn into the Guam Army National Guard during an enlistment ceremony on Friday night at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

This marked the first time that the Guam Army National Guard has recruited and enlisted men and women in the CNMI, pursuant to a memorandum of agreement signed by Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho and CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial on Feb. 9, 2010.

Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, Camacho, Fitial, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Guam National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn and Lt. Col. Robert A. Crisostimo, recruiting and retention commander of the Guam Army National Guard, led the ceremony.

Camacho and Fitial described the occasion a "historic" one.

"It's historic for the island of Guahan and the Northern Marianas for our National Guard to be able to come into the Northern Marianas and recruit. I think even more so, for the opportunities that it afford the young men and women to be part of the National Guard. Beyond that, it also opens up the government of the Northern Marianas to all the assets that are to its disposal when natural and man-made disasters occur," he said in an interview after the enlistment ceremony.

Fitial thanked Camacho and the Guam Army National Guard for support, partnership, and cooperation.

"I especially want to recognize and congratulate the new CNMI soldiers that will be enlisted this evening. Congratulations on your historic enlistment. I applaud your commitment to serve and offer my best wishes as you embark on this new journey," he said.

'Shared opportunities'

Fitial, in his remarks, said the MOA executed enabling the Guam Army National Guard to recruit from and train soldiers in the CNMI opens up new doors to avail of incentives such as additional income, education benefits, enlistment bonuses, recruitment referral bonuses, and access to troop store in the CNMI and other commissaries and exchanges throughout the nation.

The governor said for the CNMI, the partnership through the National Guard enables the CNMI and Guam to use shared resources in times of disasters.

"As governor of the CNMI, I can say that the Commonwealth is proud to welcome this opportunity for our people. Through the continued growth and development of this collaborative program, the CNMI and Guam are poised to further strengthen and sustain our regional and national security," he added.

For Camacho, the MOA is another example of shared opportunities.

"What I am most especially proud of is the fact that under a memorandum of agreement, again you see examples of Guahan and the Northern Marianas coming together for shared opportunities… Together, we are stronger and this is yet another example of how, united, the Marianas can accomplish much and benefit," he added.

The Guam governor said it's been a long process but it paid off.

"The Guam National Guard was initially interested in recruiting band members. But when they did a survey, they found there's such great interest for the (CNMI) residents to join the Guard. One step led to another

Continued on Next Page

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

NOTICE TO ALL VALUED GUESTS

Please be advised that PIC Saipan will be conducting routine maintenance to the Point Break Wave Machine (Flow Rider).

The current schedule of maintenance is as follows:

Point Break Wave Machine: April 5(Mon) ~ April 25 (Sun), resume operation April 26 (Mon).

*Schedule may change due to weather conditions and any unforeseen problems.

The Lazy River will remain open during this period; however, the Tube Slide going from the Point Break down into the Lazy River will not be available. All other facilities will be in regular operation.

Thank you very much for your understanding.
PIC Management

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
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This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD Funds.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
REVISED DATE OF CLOSING
FROM APRIL 5, 2010 TO APRIL 19, 2010
NMHC RFP 2010-001
FROM NMHC'S REGISTERED & APPROVED CONTRACTORS

ASSESSMENT AND REHABILITATION OF ABANDONED/FORECLOSED PROPERTIES

CLOSING DATE: MONDAY, April 19, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

PLACE: Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board, are soliciting competitive sealed proposals from NMHC's Registered and Approved Contractors in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Copies of the proposal package may be obtained at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) Monday through Friday except CNMI holidays.

The procedures for this procurement shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, is not available because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement.

This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Neighborhood Stabilization Program provided to the Commonwealth. Aside from other governing regulations specified in the Scope of Work, proposers are advised this project is subject to compliance with the Davis-Bacon and Related Acts as well as Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968. Proposers are further notified NMHC will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

/s/ Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/ Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency

STATE REHABILITATION COUNCIL AND
STATEWIDE INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL:voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the State Rehabilitation Council & Statewide Independent Living Council will hold their FY 2010 Annual Joint Meeting on Wednesday March 31, 2010 at the Azucena Room, Fiesta Resort Hotel at 9:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY ITEM
Call to Order/Roll Call
Review & Adoption of Agenda
Review & Adoption of Previous Minutes

II. REPORTS
SILC Chairperson
CLI Director
SRC Chairperson
OVR Director

III. OLD BUSINESS
FY 2011 State Plan Updates for IL & VR
Accessible Mass Transit
Training

IV. NEW BUSINESS
Needs Assessment

V. CONSUMERS' FORUM

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS & MISCELLANEOUS

VII. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advance for necessary arrangements.

/s/ Jesus Elameto
SRC Chairperson

/s/ Stephen Dutro
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice is paid for by federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS).

From Page 6

but all credit is given to the National Guard and their efforts to make this a reality," he added.

Training

Goldhorn, in a separate interview, said he expects the 25 newly enlisted CNMI residents to complete their training.

"We are very successful in our soldiers completing their training. And the reason for that is that we have such an active Recruits Sustainment Program. The training that we give them before they even go off to basic training is what makes them really successful at basic training. That's important and we rarely have anyone who does not complete the program," he said.

Ejercito, one of the newly enlisted men, said he's scheduled to leave for Georgia in June 2010 for 10 weeks of training. He said after this, he will come back to Saipan to continue his studies in August.

Barro said he is also Georgia-bound for training, while Inos said she may be heading for California for a three-month training also beginning in June.

Goldhorn said the newly enlisted will be prepared for basic training and advanced training under the Recruit Sustainment Program, and this could take two to five months.

"During that time, they will remain here on Saipan. Then they will go off to basic training, then on to advanced training. When they come back, they will start training at least part-time in Guam, and some of it will be on Saipan as well," he said.

Goldhorn said the Guam National Guard will continue recruitment in the CNMI.

"For those interested in joining, I would ask them to look at the Guam Army National Guard as simply another option that they have when they start to make clear decisions on what the want to do when they graduate from high school, or even those beyond high school already… I would ask them to explore other options before they make a decision about joining the military or specifically joining the Guam Army National Guard. That's a responsible thing to do," he said.

The end goal is to have a National Guard also established in the CNMI, but that may still take years to become a reality.

"I think it will be important and good for the CNMI, and that's something that has to be requested through the governor of the CNMI to the Congress and to the chief of the National Guard," he said, adding that the Guam National Guard supports such request for the CNMI.

The National Guard has a dual role of serving the state or territory, like Guam, for disaster relief, and serving its federal mission, including deployment to Iraq or Afghanistan.

Guam has the highest membership per capita of all Guard organizations in the United States: over 1,300 Guam Air and Army National Guard members for some 160,000 residents. This means 0.81 percent of Guam's population are active Guard members.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, addresses the audience at the National Guard enlistment ceremony for 23 CNMI residents on Friday night at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

From left, Guam National Guard adjutant general Maj. Gen. Donald J. Goldhorn, Assistant Interior Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho during the first National Guard enlistment ceremony for 23 CNMI residents on Friday night at the Saipan World Resort in Susupe.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

RFP-10-014

REPLACEMENT OF EXISTING 8-INCH PETROLEUM PIPELINE FOR CUC POWER PLANT NOS.: 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director. Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting proposals to completely design and conduct engineering (phase 1) and replace (phase 2) the existing CUC fuel transfer pipeline to the power plant 1 & 2 at Lower Base, Saipan. The options required are (a) to have an extension to the port for direct tanker transfer and (b) to have the complete pipeline installation, underground.

The Scope of Work and Solicitation Package will be emailed upon request, by CUC Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30a.m. to 4:00p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays, **until April 12, 2010.**

One (1) original and five (5) copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-RFP-10-014, Replacement of Existing 8-inch Petroleum Pipeline for CUC power Plant Nos. 1& 2"** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office. 3" Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 9695O, no later than **April 20, 2010** at 10:00 AM, local time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. CUC reserves the right to reject any proposal received after that time, Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations, § 50-50-225 (Competitive Sealed Proposals).

A **mandatory** Pre-proposal conference followed by a Site Visit will be arranged for this project on **March 30, 2010 at 10:30 a.m. local time** at the Saipan Lower Base CUC Power Plant I Administration Bldg. The prospective proposers are required to familiarize themselves with the site conditions.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United Stales Secretary of Treasury or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A performance and payment bond of hundred (100%) percent each of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety companies must hold a certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety of proposal security or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. No advance payment will be authorized on the project or an Irrevocable Letter of Credit (100% aggregate contract cost/CUC Beneficiary) or a payment bond. All insurers questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). A Clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

The bidder is required to submit a Copy of his CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wages, prevailing through the period of contract as indicated in the web page http:/www.dol.gov/esa/minwage/cnmi/cnmi.htm. The contractor will also be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

CUC is seeking proposers who have qualifications and experience in installing petroleum pipelines in accordance with 49 CFR regulations other relevant standards including the American Petroleum Institute (API). Contractors are advised that proposals with any conditions or exceptions to the terms of this Request for Proposal (RFP) and failure to supply or respond to any clarification of proposal upon request in a timely manner shall be cause to reject their proposal. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. Contractors are advised that the work will be carried out as a part of CUC response actions under the consent decree noted as Stipulated Order No.2 (SO 2).

Contract will be awarded to the party submitting the most responsive proposal, and who is determined by CUC to be best qualified to perform the Contract satisfactorily, and to meet all other requirements thereof. CUC reserves the rights, nevertheless, to accept a proposal other than the lowest, if it determines that CUC's interest will be best served by doing so, or to reject any and all proposals or parts of proposals received.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 a.m. local time on **April 14,2010** to Mr. Manuel B. Sablan, procurement and Supply Manager. CUC P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950 via email - **msablan@cucgov,net**, Procurement Assistant Ms. Beck Grimes - **beckyg@cucgov.net** and Mr. Venu Prabrahaka, Power Generation Engineering Manager - **venu@cucgov.net**. CUC will respond to any questions and clarification only to prospective proposers who have registered to the solicitation.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE
Assistant Executive Director for Operation

/s/ ANTONIO S. MUNA
Executive Director

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PSS to search anew for finance chief

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A key position in the Public School System that has been unfilled for over four years now remains vacant after the chosen candidate rejected the offer.

Dave Guerrero, the only applicant for the PSS finance director post, withdrew his application because of a new offer from his current company, according to acting Education Commissioner Charlie Kenty.

During Thursday's Fiscal and Personnel Affairs Committee meeting, it was reported that Guerrero was offered the position at the Interview Committee's recommendation.

"The committee interviewed him and submitted the recommendation to the commissioner. He was notified of the intent to have him for the position but he declined," Kenty said.

The finance director handles the financial side of PSS and the Board of Education. PSS is offering a $60,000 annual salary for the position.

Kenty said they will leave the decision whether to continue announcing the position to Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan.

He pointed out, though, that the position was announced before the CNMI House of Representatives passed the austerity measure bill.

During the committee meeting, PSS acting finance director Lorrie Grizzard urged the committee to look for a candidate that has a degree in accounting or a strong background in the accounting field.

Grizzard recommended that before any final recommendation, the committee must conduct a "thorough review of the application" to make sure that the one being hired is capable to do the job.

She described the position as "very critical" to the operation of the system.

Since the retirement of Richard Waldo in 2007, PSS has yet to name his replacement and Grizzard has been serving in an acting capacity all these years.

For two years now, PSS has also been relying on the services of Ed Tenorio as its financial consultant.

FPA committee chair Herman T. Guerrero admitted that the system is finding it difficult to hire a certified public accountant for the position.

"Although it is nice to have someone with that expertise, it's not easy to hire a CPA on island…so we need to discuss further in the committee the requirements for the post because this is a key position," said Guerrero.

Trader files $1.3M suit vs Palau firm

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A businessman has filed a $1.3 million lawsuit against a Palauan company and its official for allegedly not complying with their settlement agreement over his boat.

John T. Sablan, through counsel Brien Sers Nicholas, sued Pacific Petroleum and its vice president, Richard Reddy, for breach of settlement agreement and fraud.

Sablan asked the Superior Court to order the defendants to pay him $440,000 in general damages and $880,000 in punitive damages.

The case arose from a transaction where Pacific Petroleum agreed to dry-dock Sablan's boat, *Cecilia I*, and clean and paint her underwater parts.

Sablan said he delivered the boat to Pacific Petroleum on April 12, 2004.

Since then, Sablan said, Pacific Petroleum has not returned the boat to him and that the company continues to retain full possession and control of the vessel.

To settle the matter, Sablan and the defendants sat down and agreed on Feb. 10, 2005, that Pacific Petroleum will pay Sablan $400,000 plus 10 percent interest, by way of either full payment or by monthly payments starting April 1, 2005.

According to Nicholas, Pacific Petroleum has defaulted on its payment obligation to Sablan in that it has failed to remit any money whatsoever.

"Defendants, in entering into the settlement agreement, falsely and fraudulently represented to plaintiff that they had the financial liabilities and desires to satisfy their payment obligations," the lawyer said.

Jury reaches guilty, not guilty verdicts in firefighter's trial

A Superior Court jury has found a firefighter accused of stealing a boat engine owed by the Northern Islands Mayor's Office guilty of two charges but cleared him of another charge.

After deliberating for several hours Friday, the six jurors found Fire Fighter I Combiniano Taisakan guilty of theft by unlawful taking and removal of a government property. The jurors, however, found him not guilty of theft by deception.

Associate Judge David Wiseman ordered the Adult Probation Office to prepare a presentence report. He allowed Taisakan to remain at liberty until his sentencing.

Assistant attorney general Brian Gallagher prosecuted the case. Assistant public defender Matthew Holley served as counsel for Taisakan.

The trial began on Monday, March 22.

It was a police sergeant at DPS' Professional Standard Unit who referred the theft complaint involving Taisakan on April 28, 2009, according to Juan Santos, investigator of the Office of the Attorney General's White Collar Crimes/Public Corruption Task Force.

Santos said investigation showed that Taisakan sold the boat engine to firefighter George Rios and his wife, Sayuri Rios, for $300 between June 6 and August 2007.

The Rios couple made two separate payments to Taisakan totaling $140.

Sayuri Rios told investigators that while she was cleaning the boat engine, she uncovered a CNMI tag number imprinted on it, prompting her to call her husband.

Sayuri Rios told her husband to return the engine and get the money back from Taisakan because she believes it is government property.

Taisakan allegedly stated that his brother, then Northern Islands Mayor Valentin Taisakan, has the $140 because it was the mayor who asked him to sell the engine.

Valentin Taisakan, however, denied this, saying he was also looking for the engine, according to the investigator.

Taisakan was then arrested at the Department of Public Safety's Fire Station in Capital Hill where he was assigned.

The defendant has pleaded not guilty to the charges. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Board of Parole
P.O. BOX 502641, SAIPAN, MP 96950-2641
TEL. NOS.: (670) 664-3300, 3304 • FAX: (670) 664-3310
e-mail: govbop@pticom.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Board of Parole Office, and pursuant to Public Law B-41, Section II of the "Open Government Act of 1992", Notice is hereby given that a **Preliminary Hearing is scheduled for March 31, 2010, (Wednesday) at 10:00 a.m., at the CNMI Board of Parole Office, Capitol Hill Road, Building Number 1216,** Saipan. The following individual(s) will appear before the Hearing Examiner:

A. Parolee

1. SABLAN, Joseph Diaz Cr. Cs. No.: 00-0527(C)
BOP No.: 05-003

If you have any question or information, please call the Parole Office at telephone number 664-3300 or 3302.

/s/ Rose Ada Hocog — March 22, 2010
Hearing Examiner — Date

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DOC-072

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 23, 2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
OPENING DATE: APRIL 23, 2010 TIME: 1:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF FOUR LUBE OIL SEPARATORS FOR POWER PLANT 1, SAIPAN, CNMI"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKAGE MAY BE PICKED –UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ONLY ONE WALKTHROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE POWR PLANT, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, CNMI ON APRIL 9, 2010 STARTING AT 10:30 A.M.

THIS IS AN AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT OF 2009 PROJECT AND AS SUCH, ALL MATERIALS PURCHASED MUST BE MANUFACTURED IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/S/ MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, ACTING SECRETARY OF DPW
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
INVITATION TO BID
ITB10-DOC-073

SUBMISSION DATE: APRIL 23,2010 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
OPENING DATE: APRIL 23, 2010 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF NEW TURBOCHARGES AS RETROFIT UNITS FOR ENGINES #5-8 POWER PLANT 1, SAIPAN, CNMI"

COPIES OF THE ITB PACKAGE MAY BE PICKED –UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ONLY ONE WALKTHROUGH WILL BE CONDUCTED AT THE POWR PLANT, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, CNMI ON APRIL 9, 2010 STARTING AT 9:00 A.M.

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/S/ MICHAEL ADA, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE
/S/ MARTIN C. SABLAN, ACTING SECRETARY OF DPW
/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN, DIRECTOR, P&S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

March 29, 1999

Trade zone wants environmentally safe companies

CNMI's Free Trade Zone must only attract environmentally friendly businesses to protect the island's natural beauty and not jeopardize the Northern Marianas tourism economy, said Bob Jones, chairman of the FTZ Committee. The CNMI government hopes to attract capital intensive, computer and machine-driven type business operations with a minimum number of skilled higher-paid foreign workers in the Free Trade Zone. Likewise, these businesses must have training programs for U.S. citizens and local residents. Jones said the activities in the free trade zone must also be culturally acceptable, not dependent on low wages or mass importation of foreign workers.

Saipan mayor downgrades pay by 10%

The Office of Saipan Mayor will implement a 10 percent salary rollback on May 1, 1999 until the year 2000 to cope with the shrinking revenue brought about by the slowdown on the island's tourism economy, according to chief budget officer Ray Diaz. According to Diaz, the budget for fiscal year 2000 in the Mayor's Office will remain at $2.4 million. Of this, $1.9 million will go to salaries and wages of some 65 employees while $169,000 has been allotted for operations. The Mayor's Office consulted the employees to inform them of the financial crisis besetting the government where about 95 percent opted for a 10 percent salary rollback, he said.

March 29, 2000

Budget faces tough time in Senate

The FY 2000 budget bill will face tougher review in the Senate despite unanimous approval in the lower house—a move that could further delay its passage, according to lawmakers. Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes said they expect to scrutinize each item in the proposed spending package for the current fiscal year to find out where most of the money have been appropriated. "We are going to look at it and at the same time, try to facilitate the passage of the budget bill," he said. Among the chief concerns by senators are the amount set aside for scholarship and medical referral programs which they believe should get sufficient raise to address the needs of the people.

Federal agencies vow to assist in PCB woes

Various federal agencies have pledged to pool together the much-needed resources to assist the Department of Public Health in conducting the medical evaluation of Tanapag residents which would determine their level of exposure to polychlorinated byphenils (PCBs). The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry will send a group of health educators and medical professionals to help train the local people. Likewise, the Center for Disease Control, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer have also promised to assist DPH. "Finally, we are pooling all the resources available together and we've started communicating," said Public Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez. Several federal agencies participated in the teleconference initiated by the health department to discuss the PCB problem in Tanapag, and most of them have committed to assist the Northern Marianas.

March 29, 2001

Korean companies lead foreign investors in '00

The Department of Commerce approved a total of 350 long-term business certificates of foreign companies in the whole of 2000, according to figures provided by the agency's Foreign Investment Office. Topping the list of foreign investors by country coming into the CNMI last year was Korea with a total of 188 approved business certificates. China came in as the second biggest foreign investor in the Commonwealth with 82 approved business licenses. Japan was third with only 41 business licenses approved. Traditionally, the country had always occupied the top spot in foreign investment categorized by countries of origin.

Toyota still supreme in auto sales in 2000

Japanese automaker Toyota Motors continued its dominance of the local auto market selling a total of 446 units in the whole of 2000. The figure represents more than 45 percent of overall auto sales in the Commonwealth throughout the year. In data released by the Commonwealth Auto Dealers' Association, Toyota sold 242 cars, 90 trucks, 37 vans and 77 sports utility vehicles to the CNMI market in 2000. Compared to last year, the sales of the automaker increased by more than 21 percent.

Kilili's request for Tinian Health Center nets $380K

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Interior Assistant Secretary Anthony M. Babauta, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, and Tinian officials confer during a tour of the Tinian Health Center on Friday.

Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Affairs Anthony M. Babauta announced Friday that his office has approved a grant of $380,000 to the Tinian Health Center for much-needed medical supplies and equipment.

CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan made the request for the grant funds on behalf of Tinian. Babauta made the announcement to Tinian officials during a tour of the Tinian Health Center on Friday.

"Assistant Secretary Babauta deserves everyone's deep appreciation," said Sablan. "Being an islander himself he understands that the people of Tinian have to have access to basic health services on-island both for day-to-day care and for emergencies.

"The $380,000 the Office of Insular Affairs has made available to Tinian will go a long way to bolstering the Tinian Health Center's capacities and to help keep the people of Tinian well.

"I would be remiss if I did not mention Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, who is also turning out to be a very understanding supporter of the U.S. insular areas," Sablan said.

Babauta and Sablan, along with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, traveled to Tinian for the tour. Babauta made the grant announcement in the presence of Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz and Public Health resident director Raymond Dela Cruz and Tinian's senatorial delegation and municipal government leadership.

Afterwards, Freddie U. Hofschneider, special adviser for the Tinian Health Center, expressed his thanks to the Assistant Secretary. "On behalf of Director Dela Cruz, the staff and management of Tinian Health Center, I would like to extend 'Un Dankulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase' for your visit to Tinian Health Center, more importantly your granting of almost $400,000 to acquire badly needed medical equipment."

Among the medical needs that Tinian officials identified and Sablan requested were X-ray equipment; a defibrillator, ECG machine, and bedside cardiac monitor; as well as a 3D ultrasound machine, beds, and dental supplies.

Sablan has made it his mission to bring Babauta to see all of the Commonwealth's public health facilities. The two previously have visited the Commonwealth Health Center on Saipan and Rota's Health Center, but weather conditions prevented a planned Tinian trip in January.

"I invited Secretary Babauta to come back to the NMI for a second try at the Tinian visit," Sablan explained. "I am glad that he was able to find time to do so, and especially glad that he was able to deliver such welcome news to the people of Tinian."

Sablan noted that $500,000 was made available for Rota Health Center in January. He has already asked for an additional grant to be provided to the center and details of that request are currently under discussion.

"I am grateful to Mrs. Angela Manglona for bringing to my attention the additional needs of Rota's Health Center and to Rota's need for a school bus," Sablan said. "I look for the bus to be delivered in time for next year's school opening.

"Assistant Secretary Babauta has shown that he will be an excellent partner with all of the U.S. territories," Sablan said. "I look forward to continuing to work together with him and the Office of Insular Affairs to serve the needs of all our islands." ***(PR)***

CPA *to get $2.5 million for Saipan airport renovations*

The U.S. Department of Transportation will be providing the Commonwealth Ports Authority with two grants totaling $2,536,634 to rehabilitate the runway at Saipan's Francisco C. Ada International Airport and continue the terminal building improvements that have been underway for several years, according to CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan yesterday.

"This good for business today and good for business tomorrow," said Sablan. "Another $2.5 million will help pull us through today's tough times by putting people to work and by pumping new money into our local economy. But maintaining our air transportation facilities is absolutely essential for economic health of the Commonwealth tomorrow, too," Sablan said. "Especially when it comes to our main industry, tourism, we are in a highly competitive, global marketplace. If we do not maintain—and constantly improve—our infrastructure and other services here, we will lose customers to other destinations."

Sablan cited former CPA executive director Efrain F. Camacho, who worked on these grants, current executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero and his team, and the CPA board of directors for finding opportunities to improve conditions at all CNMI air and sea ports. "Congratulations on this award," he added.

One of the two awards is for $1 million, which will be used to improve the deteriorating condition of runway pavement and to meet current pavement design standards.

The second grant, for $ 1,536,634.00, will be used to replace the public address system at the Saipan terminal. Public restrooms will be renovated, and deteriorated portions of the terminal roof that leak and cause potential safety hazard to passengers will be replaced.

The DOT's Federal Aviation Administration, which provided the funds, classifies Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International as a small-hub primary airport, and has determined that the funded projects are all necessary to meet the needs of the flying public and to enhance safety and efficiency of terminal operations. "Primary" airports carry more than 10,000 passengers per year. "Small-hub" facilities account for 0.05 to 0.25 percent of the total U.S. passenger boardings. ***(PR)***

New charges filed against five in Rota human smuggling case

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. government has filed new charges against five Chinese nationals who allegedly attempted to sneak into Guam on Jan. 30 by boarding two inflatable boats at the West Harbor docks on Rota.

The indictment charged Shixu Huang, Lihua Yi, Jingfan Zhang, Pingping Zhang, and Zhanshan Zhang with one count of conspiracy to commit offenses and to defraud the U.S.

The defendants were also charged with eluding examination and inspection, and attempted improper entry by an alien.

The U.S. government earlier filed a complaint that charged the defendants with attempted improper entry by an alien.

In yesterday's hearing, the five defendants, through their respective counsels, waived a reading of the indictment and pleaded not guilty.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David Wiseman set the jury trial for June 1, 2010 at 8am.

Assistant U.S. attorney Kirk Schuler appeared for the U.S. government.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement special agent Isra D. Harahap stated in his report that he was the lead agent in charge of an undercover investigation into alien smuggling from Rota to Guam by boat.

Harahap said that, on Dec. 9, 2009, he received information from a concerned resident of Saipan regarding human smuggling from Rota to Guam.

Harahap said that, on Jan. 28, Zhanshan Zhang joined Huang and Jingfan Zhang on Rota. The following day, Pingping Zhang and Lihua Yi flew from Saipan to Rota.

The agent said that, on Jan. 30 at 4am, all five defendants boarded two inflatable boats at the West Habor docks.

Harahap said law enforcement personnel pursued and intercepted the boats.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XX, Issue No. 74

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

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EDITORIAL

China vs the Internet

You go, Go Daddy. Like Google Inc., the leading registrar of Internet domain names is pushing back against Chinese censorship, announcing Wednesday that it will stop selling domain names based in China. The company says the Chinese government demanded that it identify its customers, a clearly unacceptable requirement that would have allowed officials not just to block sites they didn't like but to go after the owners. Rival domain registrar Network Solutions said it has pulled out of China for the same reason.

Their actions follow Google's bold decision to stop censoring its sites in China and leave the world's largest Internet market after a four-year experiment there, redirecting users in China to its uncensored search engine based in Hong Kong. Even if users on the mainland go to the Hong Kong site, they still face censorship, but at least it will be clear that the censor in chief is Beijing and not Google. The Chinese government has retaliated for Google's pullout with a blistering and nationalistic attack against the company and, apparently, pressure on its mainland partners to sever ties.

These are difficult decisions for Web companies that come not only at a high financial cost but at a high price for Chinese Internet users. No U.S. company censors to the degree the Chinese government does, so to leave China is to abandon Chinese consumers. And yet Google had no choice following what appeared to be government efforts to hack into its site and the Gmail accounts of Chinese human rights activists.

We don't know what kind of censorship Microsoft might have been subjected to, or whether a move out of China is warranted in its case, but we do think the company needs to say more about its China policy than it has to date. This no longer can be seen as a battle of the Titans—Google versus the Chinese Communist Party. Google, Go Daddy and Network Solutions need the backing of other Web companies so this issue cannot be portrayed by China as the U.S. government trying to tell it what to do.

Admittedly, the chances of altering China's behavior are slim. The government is determined to censor the Internet in its efforts to stifle dissent. Some critics argue that China may have driven Google out because it posed a competitive threat to state-owned businesses. But digital goods and information are the growth engines of the global economy. The free and rapid flow of information is speeding innovation and generating new forms of commerce. China is taking a risk in driving out the world's leading Internet companies. Isolation may help the Communist Party hang on to power, but it endangers the economic expansion that makes China a top global competitor.

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CONGRATULATIONS! YOU HAVE GOV'T-MANDATED HEALTH CARE!
YAY!
NOW CONGRESS CAN GET TO WORK FIXING THE LEGISLATION!
FIXING?
AND TAXES CAN GO UP TO PAY FOR IT!
UP?
MEDICARE CAN BE SLASHED BY HALF A TRILLION DOLLARS!
UH....
LUCKY FOR YOU, THE FOOD POLICE WILL HELP YOU MAKE THE RIGHT DIETARY "CHOICES"
FOOD POLICE?
AND THE 16,500 NEW IRS AGENTS WILL MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN COMPLIANCE!
I THINK I'M GOING TO BE SICK!!!
HITCH
TELEGRAM & GAZETTE
RELAX! YOU HAVE HEALTH CARE!

Why are we doing this to ourselves?

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

During the past few weeks the U.S. and the CNMI governments have been openly feuding over the rules governing nonresident workers. I, and every other businessman, am terribly confused on what to do about registering or not registering our nonresident workers. The views are conflicting and will end up without a doubt in federal court. Is all this quarreling necessary? Will whatever answer emerges add to a further depression of our economy or to an improvement?

What we fail to realize in all of this is the blatant hypocrisy we have toward nonresident workers. We have been wearing a cloak of hypocrisy for many years about them and now the cloak is starting to show holes in it. So that we all agree on a definition of the word "hypocrisy," here is its meaning: "a pretending to be what is not true, or to believe what one does not truly believe."

I wonder, do we have a subconscious fear of nonresident workers? Do we fear that they have a better work ethic, are better educated, or more skillful than us? Do we fear that they are replacing us? How can some of them—despite the minimum wage—manage a fairly good life here? What is it that makes us react as we do toward them and ourselves? These questions must be answered if we are to face the truth about ourselves and our attitude about nonresident workers.

The saddest part of this situation is that our beautiful island people are being ripped apart because of this hypocritical attitude toward non-resident and resident workers. If we were to accept the truth, we would admit that we brought nonresident workers here *not to work with us, but to work for us***.** We allowed ourselves to be exploited by the garment industry and other businesses that were able to convince the government that we would become wealthy without having to work ourselves.

We became too lazy and not willing to do any dirty work required. If we are going to work, we prefer clean plush managerial jobs regardless of whether or not we have the qualifications. Now that these workers are being forced to leave, mass confusion and confrontation has started. Why?

Had we been sincere from the beginning, we would have trained our own labor force first. After that, realizing we had insufficient resident workers, we could have supplemented with nonresident workers. But that was not the case. We deceived ourselves and now the hypocrisy is blowing up in our face.

Next week I will trace how this disparity in wages came about and how the minimum wage was deliberately kept low while government employees' wages rose sharply. In most part of the world, government workers are paid less than the private sector. What happened here?

Do we recognize the following words?

"I salute and honor the flag of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as a symbol of unity, love, and integrity among the cultures and people for which it stands, with equal opportunity for all founded upon divine principals of democracy and the spiritual guidance of Almighty God."

This is our "Salute to the Flag of the CNMI."Are we living the meaning of these words? Let's ponder over them and let their meaning sink in! Where do nonresident workers fit in here?

At the same time we ignore the ethic of reciprocity or "The Golden Rule," which is a fundamental moral principal that simply means *"treat others as you would like to be treated."* It is the most essential basis for the modern concept of human rights or legal rights. The concept of "The Golden Rule" is found in the scriptures of nearly every religion.

For a starter, recall the days when we would go to the United States and have to stand in the foreigners' line in Honolulu and show our "alien" passport? Recall the time when the U.S. troops, the Japanese, the Germans, the Spanish—all occupied our islands. Weren't we foreigners then in our own land? What was our attitude then?

Let me remind you of the words of Abraham Lincoln spoken on Oct. 18, 1854, when he was debating the issue of slavery in the Union:

"I hate it because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world—enables the enemies of free institutions, with plausibility, to taunt us as hypocrites—causes the real friends of freedom to doubt our sincerity and especially because it forces so many really good men amongst ourselves into an open war with the very fundamental principals of civil liberty—criticizing the Declaration of Independence, and insisting that there is no right principal of action but self-interest."

On another occasion President Lincoln said: "Our progress of degeneracy appears to me to be pretty rapid. As a nation, we began by declaring that—"all men are created equal." We now practically read it "all men are created equal except Negroes."

In our case let's substitute "Negroes" with "nonresident workers" and then the meaning will hit home!

It is not too late to correct the hypocrisy in our situation. But by imposing more hypocritical laws is not the way to do it. Applaud the people who have built our great islands over the years. They deserve far better treatment than we are giving them. Make leaving a gracious departure, not a bitter one. Let's not repeat the same callous treatment we gave to the garment workers while here and upon their departure.

I am not advocating residency cards or green cards, but a better treatment than making them seem as if they are the problem, instead of us. The matter of permanent residency should be determined by more legal minds than mine.

Don't let our fears overcome us. We will not lose our identity

See WHY on Next Page

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Lent in my Covenant

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The dramaturgy of the Christian liturgical Lent lasts for 40 days beginning with Ash Wednesday. Forty represents a singular unit that constitutes a turning. The word "Lent" itself is derived from the "lengthening" of daylight from the darkness of winter to the new light of spring, useful to the temperate zone where four seasons are experienced. The word means *spring* (as in German *Lenz* and Dutch *lente*) from the German root for *long*, spring's lengthened days.

The word Lent came to use in the Reformation in Europe, thus the reference to the seasons of the equinox. In the tropics, the reckoning is quite different, akin to the liturgical season originally referred to in the Roman world as *quadragesima* (Spanish *cuaresma*, Purtuguese *quaresma*, French *carême*, Italian *quaresima*, Coatian *korizma*, Irish *Carghas*, and Welsch *Carawys*), influenced by the Egyptian practice of waiting for 40 days after a Pharaoh's death before resuming normalcy in life. Or, from the Jewish festival of *Yum Kippur* of 40 days of fasting, a passage from darkness to light, from depravity to salvation, slavery to liberation, deprivation to celebration.

Forty years represented a generation. Noah was in the Ark for 40 days. Moses was in the mountain for 40 days before descending with the Decalogue. The Israelites wandered around the desert for 40 years before crossing the Jordan into the Promise Land. In human procreation, the gestation period is 40 weeks, and a 40-day old fetus is deemed scientifically to mark the onset of an ego and a personality. Forty is the magic number prior to a turning, the transition point between what-is-no-longer and what-is-not-yet.

Today begins what is referred to as Holy Week in the liturgical Passion of the Christ, the culminating week of the 40-day season of Lent. Launched Sunday with a triumphal entry into Jerusalem riding on a donkey along waving palm fronds (fronds ashes recycled on the rerun of the next Ash Wednesday), disciples now turn into the labyrinthine quietus of prayer, meditation and contemplation on the state of the interior castles of their souls. Its secular face *sans* the heavy weight of piety is the somber/sober/serious stance reflected this week by everyone from the humanist to the religious, the atheist and zealot.

In the CNMI, among the calls to monthlong awareness this March were those of women and persons with developmental disabilities. Historical buildings around the world get unlit for an hour for Earth. We also watched a lot of people on island trudge through the parched desert of immigration and labor, in all its confusion, contradictions, convulsions and *comedia.* We were reminded of our covenant to be a Commonwealth in political union with the United States as well.

This year marks the 45th year of the U.S. Congress-ratified Covenant, which made all of the Marianas member to the American family. And as a teaser, and if it be any consolation to any festering frustration among our Ed Propst and fellow travelers, the 40th year of our universal full U.S. citizenship as a Commonwealth will be marked a couple of years after Uncle Ben's watch. By mythological reckoning, we are properly in the dark night phase, but not for very long!

The comprehensive, overarching implication of NMI-U.S. relationship reflected in the word "covenant' will accompany my reflections this week. We already noted that Don Farrell's NMI History textbook mentions F. H. Williams "coined" word to create a common mind among the political commission negotiators that reached an acceptable agreement (*covenant* to the French) between the U.S. and the Marianas District of the TT. We add that on Sam McPhetres' book on *Self-Government and Citizenship*, the word "covenant' is used but not included in the definition of vocabulary terms.

Thus, I reach back to my religious tradition. The Greek word *diatheke* was first translated *"covenant"* in English versions of the Bible (before the current "testament"), a term denoting a declaration of benefits given one party by another, with or without conditions attached. Outside the Church, "will and testament" is used, particularly those made prior to the deathbed. The Torah uses "covenant" to translate the Hebrew term *berith,* which described the relationship between YHWH and the Chosen People, a relationship that may or may not have the character of an "agreement," though in the case of sovereign to liege, it may even be just a one-sided promise or grant without possibility of reciprocity, equitable or otherwise. The Jesus narrative has the carpenter use *diatheke* in the Seder meal, a use that goes beyond a compact, a contract, and/or a concordat.

When we see the word "covenant," it is important to remember that the word does not necessarily refer to a reciprocal "agreement." This is important particularly in our context because the nebulous meaning of the word "covenant" is often ignored by the pontificating eggheads who think it only has one meaning, a precise legal one at that, and it is the one they hold. The Marianas side did not "coin" the word, nor did Williams bother to explain. Though parity and equality do not necessarily apply in the meaning of the term, equity does, in my view. This is why this reflection is apropos in this season of Lent, rather than on Election Day, because a "covenant" is more than an instrument of political expediency, it harkens to one's values and morals.

"Don't should on me," was a phrase often uttered by my school roommate in Texas, similar to the sentiments of "Don't' mess with Texas," and/or Vermont's "Don't tread on me!" My roommate was politely using "should" in reference to chicken droppings. So far, most claims aired on the Covenant that created the CNMI has been on the failure of one side to measure up on the "shoulds." By my count, recent airings have been more on the CNMI side than on the feds'. There's just been too many "should-ing" around!

Ethicists of my persuasion define any authentic relationship as one of "responsibility," a cupcake with equitable measures of "obedience" and "freedom," mathematically expressed as 100 percent obedient, and 100 percent free! There is ambiguity when any decision is made but nothing is relative about making a choice. It is not about making the right choice; it is about being totally accountable for the choices one makes. Thus, it is helpful to have a context that makes transparent our choices. Mine is this sense of a covenant: to be responsible one to another, totally obedient and totally free. And as my school roommate was wont to add, *"in the manner of the one who went before us."*

Kau Tanomu Kabales I Propiadatmu?

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Gi presente na diniskuten Attikulu Dose, guaha un` kuestion ni uma'atog gi santatte: Kau magahet dueñu hau nu i propiadatmu segun i gaige gi papa este na probision konstitusion iya Marianas?

Yangin i ineppemu "huñgan", kau magahet na siña un' dispone ennau na propiadat gi hilu kabales na disposision sin un' ma-entalue? Maila ta polu na malago hau para un' bende un' pidason tanomu. Kau libre hau mamatinas disposision gi haye para un' bende?

Matto un' tautauta ya ilegña na $3 pesus metru kuatdrau solu nina sinaña. Dispues matto un Koreanu ya inefrese hau $20 pesus metru kuatdrau. Haye para un' bende?

Todus hu kuestiona nu este na ihemplu umoppe faborable i tatatte--Koreanu. Naturatmente sa' malago hau ni mas prubichosu na presiu para i tanomu. Hu esplika dispues na ti siña mabende i Koreanu. Tat ti lalalu sa' propiadatña ya muñgague madispone. Lau estague sustansian Attikulu Dose ni megai ti kumomprende.

I prinsipiu pot direchon dueñon tanu ni mauleg in' kemprende i hagu solu siña dumispone propiadatmu. I presente na areglu gi papa Attikulu Dose, sinkuenta pot sientu (50 percent) gi propiadatmu dueñu lokue i gobietnamenton iya Marianas. Pot este na rason na ti libre hau dumispone propiadatmu, dibuenamente.

Ahe ti hu appupunta huyuñg este na direchu pot para tatutuhon bumende tanota. Taigue este gi hinasoghu. Lau metgotyu umatisa direchon kada unu dumispone hafa propiadatña. Baihu repite: I prinsipiu pot direchomu kumu dueñon tanu! Ninuñka besis na bai' hu soyu mabenden tanu sa dikiki mampos propiadat familia.

Antes gi antigu na komunidat natibu 'nai propiu i presente na probision konstitusion. Rason sa' kanaha todus man-guagualu. I linala natibu mafatto ginen kinisechan gualu. Man-geftau hit pumatte i bisinu dididi gi hafa ta kusecha. I bisinu lokue hanae hit dididi gi kinisechaña. Dañkulu na

tinilaika i modun linala deste finagpu geran dos. Memegaiña man-machochochu sa' mas libianuña masueddu ke tafan mañufa gi hilu odda gi halom figan somnag.

Pues fan a'adiñgan unu yan otru hafa i hu diskute guine na biahe. Na guaha nu ennau na konbetsasion gi hilu silensiu na inatuñgu hafa magahet i uma'atog na patte ni ti sessu mapresenta kabales. Si Yuus Maase`!

■■■

Ha gacha' hit i siklun didog na chinatsaga ni pumalolopu'enteru elmundu. Sige pagu man-adisgustu hit sa' hokug pugas gi latan petroliu. Sinparat i tininun katne yan guihan, maneska tulonoche yan baila. 'Nai ta rikonose i pottanmonedan familia, ni un' sientimos sobla.

Hana hahassoyu este poy megai pumadese gi hinanau i tiempu. Era sige hit man-ensinahyau para tafan na' sahñge gi tiempun eskases. Man-malefa hit tita chogue este gi tiempun abundansia. Kulan estorian un' apacha yan i edut. Megai pagu kinalamten apacha sa' ti man-na'sahñge gi 'nai potput i pottanmonedan familia.

Lau este na siklu siempre lokue u upos hit dispues. Ayu chinatsagaghu i ñgaian ennau na tiempu ni para u fattu. Suette yan mattu gi halom dies años. Pues na para inadisgustu sa' maseha taimanu biramu 'sino na kilulogmu nu este na asuntu, i problema mas u didog ke pagu. Ti u hanau sa' man-gaige hit mediu karera papa' gi fondun este na siklu.

Enfin, yangin sige hit ha' papa', pues kakaiha talie i fondu. Mientras ti a'anog i fondu, lamegai mas para ta padese pot dies años na tiempu. Prepara hamyu para este na pinadese sa' siempre u fatoigue hit kulan un' saki gi pueñge. Si Yuus Maase`!

WHY

From Page 10

if we plan and act accordingly. We want to become a great nation. And to become one we must act as a great nation.

The great British critic William Hazlitt once wrote: "If you put a chain around the neck of another person, the other end fastens itself around your own…. A hypocrite despises those whom he deceives, but has no respect for himself."

We are a mixture of cultures and people. We are a melting pot of races. Our islands should be role models of what different peoples can accomplish by working and living together. We need each other. Stop the hypocrisy before it tears us apart more.

The Golden Rule and human dignity must come first! If we as a nation forget that and treat people whoever they may be as tools to be cast off when not needed, we are doomed. We have suffered already too much from bad publicity as a result of selfish behavior from our past actions. Are we to continue in that infamy?

We create the future. It does not create us. We must examine our past actions. Let us be truthful and end the hypocrisy. There are much better ways to resolve the incessant blaring of contradicting guidelines. This adds to more confusion and a lowering of morale to all investors, businesspeople and resident and nonresident workers.

Let's strive to make the work field fair for everybody. There is a saying: "Parting is such sweet sadness." As we send our nonresident workers home, let's not make parting a bitter one. And let's stop abusing ourselves and the nonresident workers who have done nothing to deserve such treatment. Why are we doing this to ourselves? Have a great day!

Letter to the Editor

'Kill the pot proposal'

Dear Rep. Stanley Torres: While other states do recognize the use of marijuana for medicinal purposes, I can't believe that you whom I trusted as a legislator for many years would advocate such a bill. Obviously, no studies have shown positive results in making sure that only the patients/clients who are prescribed marijuana as a remedial cure are the only recipients. You see, it's happening as we speak. These people who are receiving these privileges (marijuana prescriptions from an MD) are crooks as well because they end up selling them for cash. For the sake of our kids and future generations, please reconsider your introduction of your proposed bill and void it before it creates a bad name for you and your career as a politician. Thank you for your time and hope you kill the proposal before it haunts us all. Furthermore, the proposal will only add more debt to the already ailing economy.

Jack Taitano
Brooklyn, New York

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼76°	▲87° ▼76°	▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲87	▼77
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲89	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲86	▼81
Kosrae	Showers	▲86	▼81
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼81

Around The Globe

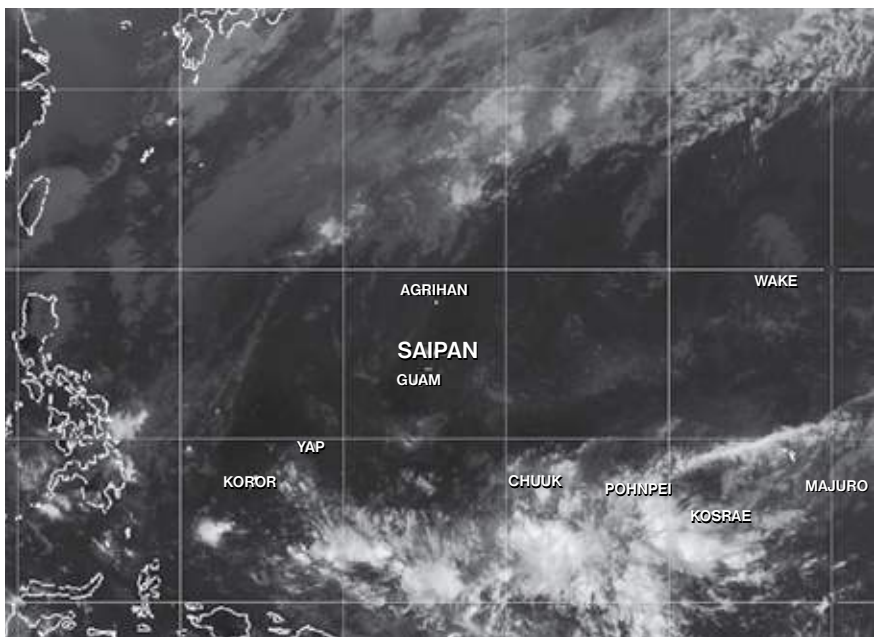
Auckland	Cloudy	▲68	▼62
Beijing	Showers	▲60	▼42
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲75	▼62
Honolulu	Sunny	▲82	▼69
London	Showers	▲52	▼43
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲75	▼53
Manila	Thundershowers	▲89	▼77
Melbourne	Sunny	▲72	▼54
Miami	Thundershowers	▲81	▼63
New York	Showers	▲52	▼38
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	▲55	▼38
Paris	Showers	▲59	▼43
Pusan	Cloudy	▲53	▼45
Rome	Cloudy	▲65	▼48
Salem	Rain	▲54	▼41
San Francisco	Showers	▲59	▼53
Seoul	Cloudy	▲54	▼38
Tokyo	Sunny	▲52	▼39
Washington, DC	Showers	▲56	▼47

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:48 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
7:00 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
1:20 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.3 Feet
7:15 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, MARCH 28, 2010
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N143E through a low centered near 19N133E then south-southwest as a trough to 14N130E. Extensive cloudiness and patchy rain are found along and up to 250 miles northwest of the stationary front. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms across most of Micronesia from the equator to 6N between 139E and 164E. This area lies just south of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae farther east. Scattered showers are found southeast of Majuro and over Tarawa from 1N to 4N between 174E and the date line.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:15 AM	6:29 PM
Tuesday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Wednesday	6:14 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:13 AM	6:29 PM
Friday	6:12 AM	6:29 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:39 PM	5:08 AM
Tuesday	6:38 PM	5:52 AM
Wednesday	7:38 PM	6:37 AM
Thursday	8:37 PM	7:25 AM
Friday	9:37 PM	8:14 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 23, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:30am	12:05pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:40pm	1:10pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:30am	1:10pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:20pm	1:10pm	4, 5
C09603	3:15pm	4:05pm	Daily
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:20pm	10:10pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

DL638	8:00am	10:55am	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	5:50am	8:40am	Daily
DL638/288	8:00am	1:40pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL297	4:35pm	7:30pm	Daily
DL289	4:50pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:10am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 6:40am, leave OSA 9:30am	
OZ606	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ604/701	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ608/705	3:20am	1:30am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 via PUS
C09603/933	3:15pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
OZ606/703	3:20pm	10:55pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:20pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ606/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:10am	3:45am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:00am	2:30am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:00am	2:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09598	2:00am	3:45am	5, 6 via ROP
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	4:50pm	5:40pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

DL641	9:05pm	1:35am+1	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL290	10:00am	2:30pm	Daily
DL298	10:15am	2:45pm	Daily
DL287/641	5:50pm	1:35am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
DL288	9:00pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via Osaka
		Arrive OSA 8:50pm, leave OSA 9:50pm	
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ706/607	3:35am	2:10am+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via PUS
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:40am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:10pm	7:50am+1	3,5 via PALAU-GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:55pm	2:20pm+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/605	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4 ,6 ,7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

GOODWILL TOURNAMENT
CNMI Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho join members of the CNMI host teams in welcoming the visiting teams from Guam and Palau to the 2010 CNMI-Guahan-Belau Law Enforcement Goodwill Softball Tournament, held on March 26-27 at the Capital Hill ballpark.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

GPPC donates $1K to MMAC

GPPC Inc. has donated $1,000 to the 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer, which automatically qualifies the company as a "major sponsor" for the 2010 MMAC.

The 2010 MMAC committee expresses its sincere appreciation to the staff and management of GPPC for their generous support of the fight against cancer. All proceeds donated and raised at the 2010 MMAC will be spent locally on cancer patient assistance and other related services.

Cancer is one of the leading causes of death in the Northern Mariana Islands and events like the Marianas March Against Cancer help raise critically needed funds to fight this deadly disease. The MMAC is the largest fundraising event in the CNMI that supports cancer awareness programs and cancer patient assistance. It is sponsored by the Commonwealth Cancer Association—a volunteer-driven non-profit organization that ensures that all funds raised are spent locally.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
MMAC committee member Reina Camacho receives the donation from Dorothy of GPPC.

The 2010 Marianas March Against Cancer will be held on May 14-15 at the Hopwood Junior High School field in Chalan Piao. The overnight event will begin at 6pm and end at 6am.

Thirteen teams are confirmed to compete under three different categories: *napu* (school), *pulan* (family), *atdao* (government/NGO), *puti'on* (corporate).

Food and games will be available the whole night for the entire community to enjoy.

For more information on the Marianas March Against Cancer, contact 2010 MMAC chairwoman Janine Nogis at 664-8523 or via email at janine.nogis@gmail.com or visit www.ccamarianas.org. ***(PR)***

DPS sets seatbelt, child seat checkpoints today

The Department of Public Safety will be conducting car restraint inspections and occupant protection child restraint checkpoints today, Monday, on Saipan.

DPS said the first CRS/OPCR checkpoint will be on 16 Highway in Chalan Kiya by the Waterloo on the westbound outer lane. This operation will commence at 6am and will terminate at 7:15am.

The second set up will be on Beach Road in Chalan Lau Lau by Dr. Kaipat's residence on the southbound outer lane. The operation will commence at 4:30pm and will terminate at 5:45pm.

DPS said each checkpoint will last at least 75 minutes at each location.

DPS said this activity is part of the department's efforts to ensure that all vehicle occupants are protected.

Checkpoints are subject to be terminated if it begins to rain.

Police officers will also be conducting highway criminal interdictions, saturation patrol, and aggressive driver interdictions.

For more information, contact Sgt. Sylvan Rangamar or Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. at 664-9085. ***(PR)***

MOBIL DONATION
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Friends of the Mariana Islands president/chair Marites Aquino Castillo, third from left, accepts a $2,000 check from Mobil Oil Mariana Islands Inc. president and country manager Gennaro Cioffi, rightmost, and Field Operations manager (CNMI) Anthony Wenceslao, leftmost. The donation will be used to continue the environmental cleanup project at Lau-Lau Beach and Road. Others in the photo are FMI's youngest volunteer, Betty Castillo Matson, second from right, and FMI treasurer Myrna Manzano.

OFW
Pamilya mo, Sagot ko!
PROTECT YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH WHILE YOU ARE AWAY
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• WE PROVIDE SECOND OPINIONS BY PHONE – FREE!
• WE CONFIRM YOUR DOCTOR'S DIAGNOSIS - FREE!
• WE PROVIDE COUNSELING AND REASSURANCE TO YOUR FAMILY - FREE!
• WE HELP YOU DECIDE HOW ESSENTIAL ARE LABS AND X-RAYS ORDERED - FREE!
• WE INTERCEDE ON YOUR BEHALF AND TALK TO CLINICS AND HOSPITALS - FREE!
• WE HELP YOU UNDERSTAND THE MEDICAL PROBLEM - FREE!
• WE ADVANCE PAYMENT OF DOCTORS' FEES FOR YOU*
• WE ADVANCE PAYMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICATIONS FOR YOU*
LET US BE THE GATEKEEPERS OF YOUR FAMILY'S HEALTH!
*CERTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY. LINE OF CREDIT UP TO PHP 2000.
PAYMENT MUST BE REMITTRED AND RECEIVED BY OUR OFFICE IN 7 DAYS.
PRIVILEGES ARE CANCELLED FOR NON-PAYMENT.
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TEL: 670-234-8005 FAX: 670-234-8028 EMAIL: kaisercnmi@yahoo.com

Business

AP: Utilities' 'smart' meters have security holes

By JORDAN ROBERTSON
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Computer-security researchers say new "smart" meters that are designed to help deliver electricity more efficiently also have flaws that could let hackers tamper with the power grid in previously impossible ways.

At the very least, the vulnerabilities open the door for attackers to jack up strangers' power bills. These flaws also could get hackers a key step closer to exploiting one of the most dangerous capabilities of the new technology, which is the ability to remotely turn someone else's power on and off.

The attacks could be pulled off by stealing meters—which can be situated outside of a home—and reprogramming them. Or an attacker could sit near a home or business and wirelessly hack the meter from a laptop, according to Joshua Wright, a senior security analyst with InGuardians Inc. The firm was hired by three utilities to study their smart meters' resistance to attack.

These utilities, which he would not name, have already done small deployments of smart meters and plan to roll the technology out to hundreds of thousands of power customers, Wright told The Associated Press.

There is no evidence the security flaws have been exploited, although Wright said a utility could have been hacked without knowing it. InGuardians said it is working with the utilities to fix the problems.

Power companies are aggressively rolling out the new meters. In the U.S. alone, more than 8 million smart meters have been deployed by electric utilities and nearly 60 million should be in place by 2020, according to a list of publicly announced projects kept by The Edison Foundation, an organization focused on the electric industry.

Unlike traditional electric meters that merely record power use—and then must be read in person once a month by a meter reader—smart meters measure consumption in real time. By being networked to computers in electric utilities, the new meters can signal people or their appliances to take certain actions, such as reducing power usage when electricity prices spike.

But the very interactivity that makes smart meters so attractive also makes them vulnerable to hackers, because each meter essentially is a computer connected to a vast network.

There are few public studies on the meters' resistance to attack, in part because the technology is new. However, last summer, Mike Davis, a researcher from IOActive Inc., showed how a computer worm could hop between meters in a power grid with smart meters, giving criminals control over those meters.

Alan Paller, director of research for the SANS Institute, a security research and training organization that was not involved in Wright's work with InGuardians, said it proved that hacking smart meters is a serious concern.

"We weren't sure it was possible," Paller said. "He actually verified it's possible. ... If the Department of Energy is going to make sure the meters are safe, then Josh's work is really important."

SANS has invited Wright to present his research Tuesday at a conference it is sponsoring on the security of utilities and other "critical infrastructure."

AP
Joshua Wright, a senior security analyst for InGuardians, poses for a portrait with his hacking tools in his office in East Providence, R.I., Friday, March 26, 2010. InGuardians, which was hired by three utility companies, found flaws in new "smart" meters being installed at homes and businesses across the U.S.

Moth forces wine country's secret into the open

By TRACIE CONE
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

FRESNO, Calif. (AP)—One of the dirty secrets of California's wine country is now on everyone's lips. Somehow a voracious grape-eating moth has found its way nonstop from Europe to the heart of the Napa Valley, the land of three-figure cabernet. With valuable fruit at risk, the region's fast and loose play with federal agriculture quarantine laws is getting new scrutiny from investigators and researchers.

Suitcase smuggling is the winked-at act of sneaking in cane cuttings to clone vines from France's premier vineyards, hoping to replicate success. Vintners say it helped build a handful of exceptional vineyards in the 1980s when U.S. plant choices were limited and import testing took seven years.

As California clamps a quarantine across the heart of Napa Valley and farmers ready their pesticides, nobody is winking anymore. A new Napa reality is setting in—that lax attitudes invite costly invasions of new pests that can threaten the country's most expensive and economically productive farmland.

"There are people who continue to spin their tales of smuggled plant material. People like a story with a glass of wine, and what that tends to do is legitimize behavior that not only threatens the industry, it's illegal," said Greg Clark, deputy agricultural commissioner for Napa County. "Knock it off."

A handful of California's best vintners today admit to having used "suitcase cloning" to avoid yearslong waits in USDA quarantine for their vines.

Their stories of success after stuffing cane buds down pants legs and in backpacks romanticized an outlaw behavior that, even if it's not directly responsible for a coming wave of vineyard spraying over most of Napa Valley, has reminded growers that one person's miscalculation can affect them all.

"The question is 'Who brought it in?'" asks Jim Lincoln, who manages 400 acres of grapes in the quarantine area.

Theories are swirling around Napa like cabernet in a Riedel glass: smuggled grape cuttings; imported vineyard machinery mislabeled to avoid scrutiny, as is suspected in Chile's similar outbreak, or, even more sinister, a deliberate introduction to gain an edge in a region where an acre of fruit can sell for $15,000 and more.

"Even small percentage or a fraction of a percentage in market share has the potential to benefit someone financially," said Clark.

Agricultural officials say that had the European grapevine moth (Lobesia botrana) innocently evaded inspectors on a container ship, the first trapping of the grape eater would have been near a port. Instead the pest that has proliferated across European vineyards appeared last September in the heart of the region where fine cabernet can fetch hundreds of dollars a bottle.

AP
This undated photo released by the California Department of Food and Agriculture shows a European grapevine moth.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

UAE: head of largest sovereign wealth fund missing

RABAT, Morocco (AP)—Rescue workers were scouring an artificial Moroccan lake Saturday in search of the head of Abu Dhabi's sovereign wealth fund—the world's largest—who went missing after his glider crashed. Morocco's official MAP news agency said that Ahmed bin Zayed Al Nahyan's glider went down in the lake Friday. The pilot of the aircraft was rescued in good condition, but authorities continued the search for Al Nahyan. Al Nahyan is the managing director of the Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. He is also the younger brother of Sheik Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the leader of the United Arab Emirates. The Abu Dhabi Investment Authority could not be immediately reached for comment.

Hawaii searching for Internet answers with Google

HONOLULU (AP)—Stuck in the Internet slow lane, Hawaii and its sluggish network are hoping Google will ride to the rescue. Through online petitions, a Facebook fan page and a YouTube video by the governor, Hawaii wants to persuade Google to choose the islands for one of its experimental fiber-optic networks, which could bring Internet speeds 100 times faster than those currently available to most Americans. The search engine giant is launching the experiment to test new ways to build fiber networks and to demonstrate the power of quick Internet to phone and cable companies. It invited all comers to say how they might benefit, and hundreds of communities from across the country have submitted bids arguing that they're the best location for the experiment. Hawaii's efforts may be a tough sell. The state's surfing speeds are among the slowest in the country, and legislative efforts to improve speeds haven't borne fruit.

Chavez: Venezuela taps huge natural gas deposit

QUITO, Ecuador (AP)—Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez says drilling for natural gas off his country's Caribbean coast has found a "super well" and the deposit could be nearly twice as large as originally thought. Chavez said Venezuela has been drilling in various spots offshore with Russian, Spanish and Italian companies. He says that near the Paraguana Peninsula, "we found a super well of gas, a super field." He said during a visit to Ecuador on Friday the deposit was estimated previously at 8 trillion cubic feet of gas, but is thought now to hold up to 14 trillion cubic feet. The Spanish energy company Repsol said in September that it had found a huge natural gas field off Venezuela estimated to contain 7 trillion to 8 trillion cubic feet of gas.

GM pulls heavy-duty vans due to faulty alternator

DETROIT (AP)—General Motors Co. is recalling about 5,000 heavy-duty Chevrolet Express and GMC Savana vans because of a faulty alternator. The automaker also halted sales of the vans Friday. It has also stopped production of them until it can fix the problem. GM spokesman Alan Adler says there have been no injuries related to the recall. Purchasers of the recalled vans, built in February and March, are urged to stop driving them and park them outside away from buildings and other vehicles. It is rare for an automaker to halt sales because of a safety defect. GM's decision to stop sales of the vans comes two months after Toyota Motor Corp. halted sales of eight models because of faulty accelerator pedals.

Nation

Struggling families depend more on school lunches

By HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—For a couple tight weeks after taking in her sixth-grade stepson, Lisa Lewis fretted about how to pay for his school lunches.

Unable to find a full-time job, the 37-year-old works part-time at a Kansas City, Kan., daycare, earning minimum wage. On that money alone, she supports herself, her unemployed husband, her stepson and her 11th-grade son.

"I sometimes cry myself to sleep wondering how I am going to keep my family fed and things like that," Lewis said. "I'm making it but barely."

Her worries were eased when she found out she could get government assistance to pay for the younger boy's meals. Her older son already is part of the subsidized lunch program.

In this March 24, 2010 photo, Lisa Lewis poses for a photo near the daycare where she works part-time, in Kansas City, Kan.
AP

In the midst of a blistering recession, more families are flocking to the federal program that gives students free or reduced-priced lunches. Schools are watching for who enrolls in the program because it gives teachers insight into life at home and officials consider it a barometer of poverty.

The numbers are telling.

During the 2008-2009 school year, about 19 million students received free and reduced lunches, which is 895,000 more than the previous year—a jump of nearly 5 percent and that greatly outpaced the overall increase in school enrollment, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food and Nutrition Service. Typically, the increases are about 1 to 2 percent each year.

"We have seen record program growth over the past two years as we go through this difficult period," said Jean Daniel, a spokeswoman for the agency.

Meanwhile, 78 percent of school nutrition directors surveyed in the fall said they had noticed an increased number of students eligible to receive free or reduced-price meals for the 2009-2010 school year, according to the School Nutrition Association, a nonprofit that represents those who prepare school meals.

To qualify for the mostly federally funded school meal program, a family of four can earn no more than $28,665 for free lunch and $40,793 for reduced-cost lunches of no more than 40 cents. The guidelines are different in Alaska and Hawaii, where families can earn more and still qualify.

ACROSS THE NATION

Family rejoices at release of contractor in Iraq

SAN DIEGO (AP)—The family of an Iraqi-American contractor said to have been kidnapped in Baghdad in January rejoiced Saturday over his release, saying they did not believe they would see him alive again. Issa Salomi, 60, spoke with his 27-year-old son Roger Friday and told him that memories of the birth of the oldest of his four boys sustained him during captivity, said Vivian Tilley, a niece. A few hours later, Salomi called his wife of 30 years, Mura Salomi, and asked for her homemade tabbouleh when he arrived home. "I was screaming," Mura Salomi said in interview Saturday. "Really, I didn't think he'd be alive ... I can't wait to hug him and put him in my arms." A Shiite extremist group claimed responsibility for the Jan. 23 kidnapping and posted a video online that showed a man wearing military fatigues, reading a list demands for the release of militants, the prosecution of Blackwater guards and an immediate U.S. troop withdrawal.

Crane strikes 25-story NYC building; no injuries

NEW YORK (AP)—A listing crane struck the side of a 25-story building near Wall Street on Saturday, sending debris cascading to the ground, disrupting traffic and leading to evacuations at five buildings. There were no injuries reported after the crane hit a ledge near the top of the mixed-use building on Maiden Lane, three blocks from Wall Street, the Fire Department of New York said. Part of the lower Manhattan building's facade broke off and fell into the street, police Lt. John Grimpel said. The crane was in a plaza about half a block from the struck building. The base of the crane was on the other side of the street from the building, and the crane was leaning diagonally across the street onto the building. At least six fire trucks responded to the area. Some traffic was diverted, and streets were closed. The struck building and three others near it were evacuated as a precaution, police said.

Ex-Scientology lawsuits reveal elite Sea Org group

SAN JACINTO, Calif. (AP)—At the edge of arid foothills far outside Los Angeles, hundreds of Scientology followers live on a gated, 500-acre campus and work long hours for almost no pay reproducing the works of founder L. Ron Hubbard and creating the church's teaching and promotional materials. The church says its 5,000 so-called Sea Organization members are religious devotees akin to monks who are exempt from wage requirements and overtime. But two lawsuits filed by two former Sea Org members, as they are known, allege the workers are little more than slave laborers, forced to work 100-hour weeks for pennies and threatened with manual labor if they cause trouble. Marc Headley and his wife, Claire, are seeking back pay and overtime that could add up to $1 million each, according to their attorney, Barry Van Sickle. Experts say the plaintiffs face an uphill battle; one similar lawsuit in state court has already been dismissed, although the plaintiff plans to appeal.

US zookeeper butts heads with giraffe

PROVIDENCE, Rhode Island (AP)—A zookeeper has been treated at a hospital for minor head injuries and released after butting heads with a giraffe. A spokesperson for the Roger Williams Park Zoo told The Providence Journal that the 18-foot(5 1/2-meter)-tall giraffe was being playful and took a swipe at the keeper when she was cleaning up in a space between the exhibit and the public viewing area Saturday. The keeper remained conscious and was able to walk to safety. Spokesperson Jan Mariani said the 20-year-old Griffy is not an aggressive animal but likes to get close to people and get his head petted.

Mennonite family among 11 killed in Ky. crash

MARROWBONE, Kentucky (AP)—Scared but curious after surviving a horrific interstate crash in south-central Kentucky that killed 11 people, including eight from the Mennonite family that adopted him, Josiah Esh wanted to know where his parents were. When the 5-year-old from Guatemala was told they had gone to heaven, a pastor said the boy reacted almost as if he already knew. "He seems to be kind of in shock—very quiet, very subdued, just watching what's going on around him. Very heart-wrenching," said Leroy Kauffman, pastor of Marrowbone Christian Brotherhood in Burkesville, Kentucky. Kauffman said he and other church members rushed to Munfordville on Friday after hearing the news about a fatal collision there between a tractor-trailer and a large van carrying Kentucky Mennonites. He knew almost immediately the Eshes were involved because during a church meeting the night before, family members asked the congregation to pray for their safe travel to Iowa, where they planned to attend a wedding. Police credited child safety seats for sparing Josiah and his brother, Johnny, 3, the lone survivors.

Spokeswoman: Barbara Bush hospitalized in Texas

HOUSTON (AP)—Former first lady Barbara Bush was hospitalized Saturday in Houston to undergo routine tests but doctors don't suspect anything serious, a family spokeswoman said.

Bush, 84, was being treated at Methodist Hospital and should be released in a day or two, spokeswoman Jean Becker said late Saturday.

"She hasn't been feeling well for about a week, and the doctors thought she should come in and undergo a battery of tests," Becker said. "It's not serious. She just hasn't been feeling herself and they're just trying to figure out why."

Becker declined to provide details, but said former President George H.W. Bush drove his wife to the hospital Saturday morning after consulting with her doctors. A hospital spokeswoman declined comment, saying information was only being released through the family.

Mrs. Bush was hospitalized for nine days after undergoing heart surgery in March 2009, for a severe narrowing of the main heart valve. Doctors at the time said the condition was common among people her age. She also was hospitalized in November 2008, when she underwent surgery for a perforated ulcer. Doctors said the two ailments were unrelated.

AP
In this Oct. 3, 2008 file photo, former first lady Barbara Bush speaks at a dedication ceremony for the George and Barbara Bush Center at the University of New England, in Biddeford, Maine.

Obama announces 15 recess appointments, scolds GOP

By BEN FELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP—Fed up with waiting, President Barack Obama announced Saturday he would bypass a vacationing Senate and name 15 people to key administration jobs, wielding for the first time the blunt political tool known as the recess appointment.

The move immediately deepened the divide between the Democratic president and Republicans in the Senate following a long, bruising fight over health care. Obama revealed his decision by blistering Republicans, accusing them of holding up nominees for months solely to try to score a political advantage on him.

"I simply cannot allow partisan politics to stand in the way of the basic functioning of government," Obama said in a statement.

The 15 appointees to boards and agencies include the contentious choice of union lawyer Craig Becker to the National Labor Relations Board. Republicans had blocked his nomination on grounds he would bring a radical pro-union agenda to the job, and they called on Obama not to appoint Becker over the recess.

Obama went ahead anyway, while also choosing a second member for the labor board so that four of its five slots will be filled. The board, which refereees labor-management disputes, has had a majority of its seats vacant for more than two years, slowing its work and raising questions about the legality of its rulings.

Asia

SKorea resumes searching for 46 missing navy crew

BAENGNYEONG ISLAND, South Korea (AP)—Weeping, angry relatives of 46 crew members missing after a mysterious explosion sank a South Korean navy ship sailed around the site Sunday as rescue teams took to the air and sea still hoping to find survivors.

None have been found since an initial rescue of 58 sailors from the 1,200-ton Cheonan that sank near the tense border with North Korea early Saturday. No bodies have been discovered.

The exact cause of the explosion late Friday remained unclear - and officials said it could take weeks to determine. The ship, which was on a routine patrol with other vessels in the Yellow Sea off South Korea's west coast, sank about three hours after the blast.

It is one of South Korea's worst naval disasters. In 1974, a ship sank off the southeast coast in stormy weather, killing 159 sailors and coast guard personnel. In 1967, 39 sailors were killed by North Korean artillery.

Fierce waves and high winds have hampered the search in the area where the two Koreas have fought bloody naval engagements. Despite the location of the sinking, North Korea did not appear to be involved.

The explosion tore open the rear hull of the Cheonan, shut down its engine, wiped out power and caused the ship to sink a little over three hours later, according to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Military and coast guard ships and helicopters were searching the chilly waters Sunday, South Korea's navy said.

The weather conditions had improved from Saturday, but Yonhap news agency reported that dozens of military divers quickly withdrew due to rapid sea currents. Divers also unsuccessfully tried to get to the wreckage on Saturday.

President Lee Myung-bak ordered officials to "thoroughly investigate" the sinking and make their best efforts to rescue any possible survivors, according to his spokesman Park Sun-kyoo.

As hopes faded for the missing crew, about 80 family members aboard a navy patrol boat sailed around the site and watched rescue operations.

"My Son! My son!" one crying woman shouted while boarding the ship late Saturday at a naval base south of Seoul for the overnight journey to the accident area as other relatives wailed in grief.

The family members were to return later Sunday to a naval base south of Seoul, where other relatives awaited news.

Though there was no indication North Korea was to blame, South Korean troops were maintaining "solid military readiness," the Defense Ministry said.

Imelda Marcos, 80, seeks comeback

By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

AP

Imelda Marcos looks at the glass coffin of her husband, the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos, before she starts her motorcade campaign at Batac in Ilocos Norte, northern Philippines, Friday, March 26, 2010.

BATAC, Philippines (AP)—Imelda Marcos, the former first lady forever associated with diamonds and a huge shoe collection, put on a bright orange tunic and hit the campaign trail Friday in a bid to re-enter Philippine Congress—a remarkable feat for the widow of a dictator seeking to clear his sullied name.

The 80-year-old Marcos, her hair coifed back and elegant leather sandals on her feet, led journalists at daybreak to the mausoleum of Ferdinand Marcos in his northern Philippine stronghold, where she kissed his glass coffin as cameras snapped.

"This is one of our major injustices," she said, adding her victory would bring closer her dream of burying her husband in a heroes' cemetery in Manila. Such a move has been denied by successive governments since Marcos' death in U.S. exile in 1989, three years after his ouster in a "people power" revolt.

The Marcoses were accused of corruption, political repression and widespread human rights abuses during Ferdinand Marcos' 20-year iron-fisted rule.

After fleeing the presidential palace aboard U.S. choppers—and leaving behind stunning jewels and 1,220 pairs of shoes—Imelda Marcos and their three children were allowed to return to the Philippines in 1991.

Despite her reputation for extravagance, including shopping trips to the world's poshest boutiques and lavish beautification projects in a nation wracked by poverty, Imelda Marcos retained supporters and even won a congressional seat in 1995. She ran unsuccessfully for president in 1992 and again in 1998.

"My ambition is to serve without end and to love without end," Marcos said at a news conference in a hotel discotheque before her long convoy hit the road under a broiling sun.

Afflicted with diabetes and glaucoma, Imelda parried a question about her age.

"It's true I'm 80 years old, but I can run and be a grandmother who can love and embrace the people more than a mother can," Marcos said, drawing applause from friends.

She went to church and then rode on a flatbed campaign truck festooned with balloons and posters as thousands cheered her along the way. She was flanked by her daughter Imee, who is running for governor in Ilocos Norte, a tobacco-growing region about 250 miles (400 kilometers) north of Manila.

Her son, Ferdinand Marcos Jr., is seeking a Senate seat.

World

Landmarks, cities across the globe unplug for Earth Hour

LONDON (AP)—Europe's best known landmarks—including the Eiffel Tower, Big Ben and Rome's Colosseum—fell dark Saturday, following Sydney's Opera House and Beijing's Forbidden City in joining a global climate change protest, as lights were switched off across the world to mark the Earth Hour event.

In the United States, the lights went out at the Empire State Building in New York, the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and the Coca-Cola headquarters in Atlanta, among many other sites in the Eastern time zone.

Millions were expected to turn off lights and appliances for an hour from 8:30 p.m. in a gesture to highlight environmental concerns and to call for a binding pact to cut greenhouse gas emissions. This year's was the fourth annual Earth Hour, organized by the World Wildlife Fund.

"I think it's great to see that hundreds of millions of people share this common value of lowering our carbon footprint," said Dan Forman, a spokesman for WWF in Washington.

Some 4,000 cities in more than 120 countries—starting with the remote Chatham Islands off the coast of New Zealand—voluntarily switched off Saturday to reduce energy consumption, though traffic lights and other safety features were unaffected, organizers said.

"We have everyone from Casablanca to the safari camps of Namibia and Tanzania taking part," said Greg Bourne, CEO of WWF in Australia, which started Earth Hour in 2007 in Sydney before it spread to every continent.

AP

A couple kiss as the Eiffel Tower is shown just after the 20,000 bulbs illuminating the tower went out, Saturday, March 27, 2010.

WORLD BRIEFS

321 civilians killed in 2009 massacre in Congo

DAKAR, Senegal (AP)—At least 321 civilians were killed in a previously unreported massacre in Congo in late 2009, while villagers that escaped their rebel captors were sent back with their lips and ears cut off as a warning to others of what would happen if they tried to talk, according to an investigation by a human rights group. New York-based Human Rights Watch said in its report released Saturday that at least 250 more people were abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army rebels during the attack in the Makombo area of northeastern Congo, including no less than 80 children. Yet the killing spree, which occurred from Dec. 14 to 17 in at least 10 villages, had gone unreported for months. The majority of those killed were men who were tied up, some bound to trees, before being hacked to death with machetes or having their skulls crushed with axes. A 3-year-old girl was burnt to death, according to the report. The rebels then abducted many of the children and women, who were forced to march to a town over 60 miles (96 kilometers) away.

Israeli soldiers leave Gaza after fierce clash

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israel withdrew its troops from the Gaza Strip Saturday after some of the fiercest gunbattles with Palestinian militants in the Hamas-run territory since last year's military offensive. Israeli troops used bulldozers to "remove infrastructure used by terrorists to attack soldiers" before the early morning withdrawal, a military spokeswoman said. Gaza militants, meanwhile, fired a rocket into southern Israel on Saturday, but no injuries were reported, the military said. Two others fell short of Israeli territory. The violence began Friday when soldiers patrolling the border crossed into Gaza after spotting Palestinians planting explosives near the fence with Israel. Two Israeli soldiers and two Palestinian militants were killed in the gunbattle, the military said. Palestinian medics said one civilian was killed and seven were wounded in the fighting. Militants reported one wounded and one missing.

At least 5 dead in Peru mudslide from heavy rain

LIMA, Peru (AP)—Peruvian police say five people have been killed by a mudslide set off by heavy rains in a remote community of wildcat miners in the southeastern Andes. Gen. Javier Sanguinetti, police chief of the Puno region, says authorities have no further information because communications have been disrupted and the area is accessible only by foot because of the continuing rain. Sanguinetti says the bad weather prevented a police helicopter from landing at midday Saturday to check on the extent of damage near an unauthorized mine. The aircraft will try again Sunday. The police chief says the slide occurred in Carabaya province 530 miles (860 kilometers) from Lima.

Health & Fitness

The CANCER no on wants to talk about

By WALTER J. SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The CNMI Department of Public Health's 2007 Comprehensive Cancer Control Plan ranks colorectal cancer as the sixth most commonly diagnosed form of cancer in the CNMI, after breast cancer, lung cancer, cervical cancer, cancers of unknown origin, and head and neck cancer, and the fourth-leading cause of cancer-related deaths.

March is Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month, so this month is as good time a time as any to start talking and learning more about one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers in the CNMI and across the United States.

What is it?

Colorectal cancer is cancer that develops in either the colon (the longest part of the long intestine) or the rectum (the part of the intestine that is closest to the anus). In most cases, colorectal cancer develops from precancerous, abnormal growths in the colon or rectum. Cancer that begins in the tissues of the colon is called colon cancer. Cancer that begins in the tissues of the rectum is called rectal cancer.

How common is it?

According to local physician Dr. Joel Smith, the CNMI's cancer rankings are different from the national rankings.

"Skin cancer is rare in the CNMI," he said. "Breast, head and neck, colorectal, and prostate cancers are most common [here]."

Dr. Smith attends to all cancer patients at the Commonwealth Health Center. According to him, three new cases of colorectal cancer were diagnosed in the CNMI in 2009, and three deaths caused by colorectal cancer were reported in the same year.

What are the risk factors?

A risk factor is anything that affects your chances of developing a disease. According to the American Cancer Society, researchers have identified several risk factors associated with colorectal cancer, including: age (more than ninety percent of people diagnosed with colorectal cancer are older than 50), personal or family history of colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer; personal history of inflammatory bowel disease, smoking, a diet that is high in red meats or processed meats, being overweight or obese, heavy alcohol consumption, physical inactivity, and Type 2 diabetes.

How can risk be reduced?

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the most effective way to reduce risk of developing colorectal cancer is to have regular colorectal screening tests beginning at age 50, or earlier if you have a personal or family history of colorectal polyps or colorectal cancer or if other risk factors apply to you. If all people aged 50 and older were screened for colorectal cancer regularly, over 80 percent of all cases of colorectal cancer could be prevented, and as much as 60 percent of deaths from this cancer could be avoided.

In the CNMI colorectal cancer is typically diagnosed in the late stages of the disease. Local physicians have also been diagnosing colorectal cancer in individuals younger than 50, a phenomenon that suggests the need for further study by CNMI public health officials.

What screening tests are available?

Colonoscopies and fecal occult blood tests may be conducted at the Commonwealth Health Center. Efforts are currently underway at the Department of Public Health to provide additional training and resources to medical providers through the Comprehensive Cancer Control Program. If you are aged 50 or older, or if any of the risk factors associated with colorectal cancer apply to you, talk to your doctor about getting screened.

What are the symptoms?

Many people in the early stages of colorectal cancer exhibit no symptoms, which is another reason why regular screening is so important. Symptoms may vary depending on the cancer's size and location.

Check your doctor if you have any of the following symptoms: rectal bleeding or bloody stools, a change in bowel habits (diarrhea, constipation, or a change in the consistency of stools for more than two weeks), persistent abdominal discomfort (cramps, gas, or pain), weakness or fatigue, unexplained weight loss, or a feeling that bowels have not completely emptied.

What is the treatment?

Treatment for colorectal cancer may involve surgery, chemotherapy, biological therapy, radiation therapy, or a combination of these treatments depending on the size and location of the cancer. Surgery is the most common treatment for colorectal cancer. Non-complex colorectal surgeries may be performed at the Commonwealth Health Center, but complicated procedures must be referred off-island. Chemotherapy is generally initiated off-island, and maintenance chemotherapy may be conducted on-island.

'We need to talk about it now!'

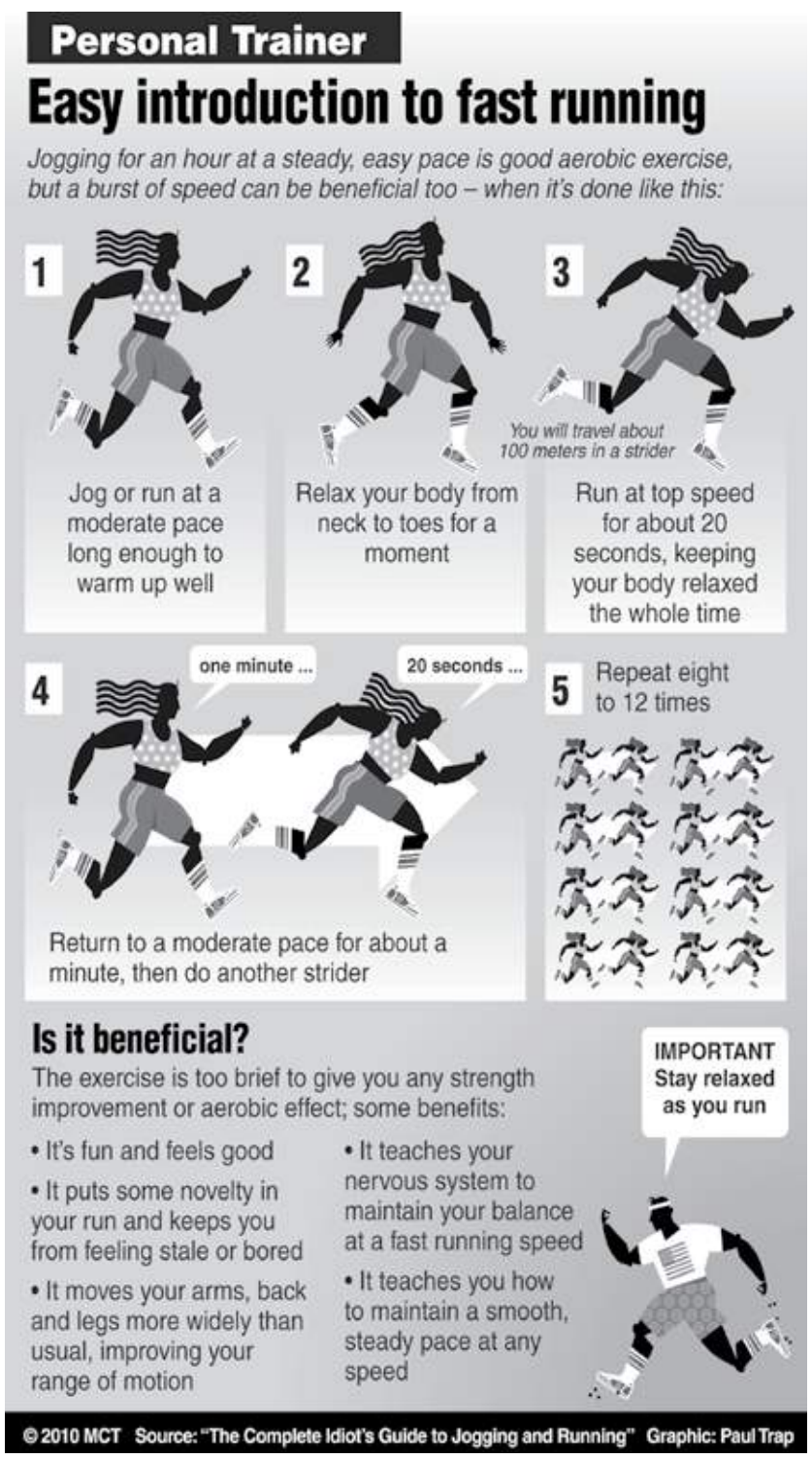
Retired local physician Dr. Jack Hardy remembers what happened a few years ago when the Commonwealth Cancer Association launched a project to develop an educational DVD about colorectal cancer in the CNMI. The project failed.

"We identified several survivors of colorectal cancer who were well-known, respected members of the community and asked them to participate in the project. We felt that personal stories would be a particularly powerful way to get the message out about this very common, very preventable, form of cancer," Dr. Hardy recalls. "But no one wanted to talk about it."

The social and emotional stigmas associated with cancers of the colon and rectum proved too great. The CCA suspended the project.

Dr. Hardy serves as senior advisor to the Commonwealth Cancer Association, the local cancer support organization for the CNMI. Like many other public health officials, he believes that the need to break through the sensitivity and silence surrounding colorectal cancer has never been more urgent.

"There is a high incidence rate here in the CNMI," Dr. Hardy says. "We absolutely need to talk about colorectal cancer. We need to talk about it openly, and we need to talk about it now." ***(CCA)***


Personal Trainer
Easy introduction to fast running
Jogging for an hour at a steady, easy pace is good aerobic exercise, but a burst of speed can be beneficial too – when it's done like this:
1
Jog or run at a moderate pace long enough to warm up well
2
Relax your body from neck to toes for a moment
3
You will travel about 100 meters in a strider
Run at top speed for about 20 seconds, keeping your body relaxed the whole time
4
one minute ...
20 seconds ...
Return to a moderate pace for about a minute, then do another strider
5
Repeat eight to 12 times
Is it beneficial?
The exercise is too brief to give you any strength improvement or aerobic effect; some benefits:
• It's fun and feels good
• It puts some novelty in your run and keeps you from feeling stale or bored
• It moves your arms, back and legs more widely than usual, improving your range of motion
• It teaches your nervous system to maintain your balance at a fast running speed
• It teaches you how to maintain a smooth, steady pace at any speed
IMPORTANT Stay relaxed as you run
© 2010 MCT Source: "The Complete Idiot's Guide to Jogging and Running" Graphic: Paul Trap

HEALTH MATTERS

By DRS. KAY JUDGE and MAXINE BARISH-WREDEN
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Q: This is an embarrassing problem: I only have a bowel movement every other day. How can I be more regular? I usually have to drink a laxative tea to go daily.

A: This is not embarrassing at all for us to answer. But it's a red-faced question we get asked frequently, so thanks for asking.

Constipation is defined as going fewer than three times a week. Other signs include straining, hard stools, a sensation of incomplete evacuation and a sense of blockage or obstruction.

It is actually normal for some people to go every other day, so if you don't have any other signs of digestive upset, we wouldn't recommend actively treating it to increase the frequency—especially with laxatives, including special teas.

However, about 4 million Americans do suffer from chronic constipation, and more than $150 million is spent yearly by Americans on laxatives. What may be some reasons?

■ Not getting enough fiber. The average American eats only 5 to 14 grams of fiber daily, as opposed to the 20 to 35 grams recommended by the American Dietetic Association.

■ Not exercising enough. Lack of physical activity is a surprisingly common cause of constipation in the elderly. (Time to do those sit-ups!)

■ Not drinking enough water. Water adds fluid to the colon and makes bowel movement easier. Conversely, caffeinated beverages and alcohol may dehydrate the body.

■ Certain medications can aggravate constipation. Common culprits include pain medications (narcotics), antacids that contain aluminum and calcium, blood pressure medications (calcium channel blockers), diuretics and iron supplements.

■ Not listening to the body. Ignoring the urge can lead to chronic constipation.

■ Taking laxatives. These can impair the colon's ability to have regular movements.

Some of our favorite natural remedies for constipation, therefore, are pretty straightforward. Drink plenty of water, exercise daily and practice regularity in the times you go to the bathroom. You can also try to get to a goal of 25 to 35 grams of fiber a day through bran, beans, whole grains, fresh fruit and veggies. Some foods that are pretty high in fiber include raspberries, pears, barley, split peas, lentils, black beans and artichokes.

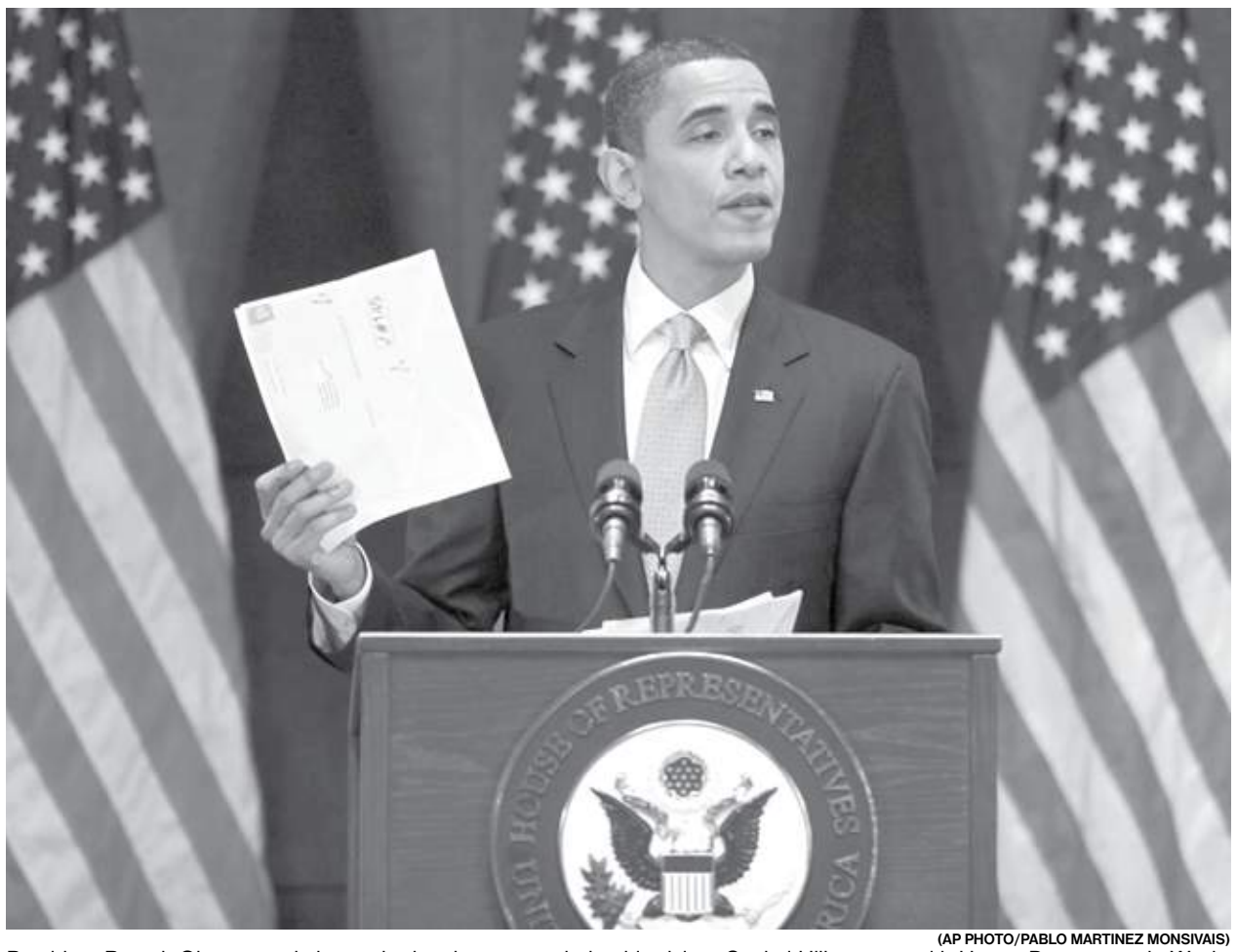
As always, if any other medical symptoms occur along with the constipation—such as abdominal pain or blood in the stools—seek the advice of a doctor.

Drs. Kay Judge and Maxine Barish-Wreden are medical directors of Sutter Downtown Integrative Medicine program in Sacramento, Calif. Have a question related to alternative medicine? E-mail adrenaline@sacbee.com.

Life & Style

10 letters a day: Humanizing talismans for Obama

By NANCY BENAC
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER



(AP PHOTO/PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS)
President Barack Obama reads letters he has been sent during his visit to Capitol Hill to meet with House Democrats, in Washington, Saturday, March 20, 2010.

WASHINGTON (AP)—He kept coming back to the letters.

Perhaps nothing crystallized President Barack Obama's determination to press forward on health-care legislation more than the 10 letters he reads each day from ordinary Americans.

The letters became talismans for him: He carried them around. He recited their stories. He used them as rallying cries. (Or as props, as his critics saw it.)

And when at last it came time to sign the landmark health care bill, Obama still had them very much in mind.

The guests invited to Tuesday's signing ceremony in the East Room included the family of an Ohio woman who wrote to Obama that soaring premiums had forced her to give up her insurance and a small business owner from California who e-mailed the president about his struggle to insure his five employees. Other letter-writers were invited to a midday celebration of the legislation, including a 17-year-old girl from Pennsylvania who got a letter back from Obama after she wrote that her family of five had lost their insurance.

In his first week as president, Obama asked his staff to select 10 letters a day for him to read from among the tens of thousands that were flooding into the White House. He wasn't looking for a folder full of pats on the back, aides say.

"I don't want to tell you what to put in this folder," Obama told his correspondence director, Mike Kelleher, at one point early on.

Obama joked recently that he's sure his staff is sending him a representative sample—"because about half of these letters call me an idiot."

Fourteen months later, Obama still takes 10 letters (including e-mails and faxes) with him when he heads upstairs at the end of each weekday. He personally writes back to three or four.

The letters, the president has said, "do more to keep me in touch with what's happening around the country than just about anything else."

Health care and the economy are the most frequent topics of those who write to Obama, according to Kelleher.

And it was in those letters that Obama found a compelling counterpoint to abstract policy debates.

ON THE NET

Text of letter to Obama: http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/03/15/im-here-because-natoma-0/letter-text

> *The toughest letters are in children's handwriting. Kids write me, 'My dad just lost a job; my grandma is sick, she can't afford health insurance.'*

"The toughest letters are in children's handwriting," Obama said this winter. "Kids write me, 'My dad just lost a job; my grandma is sick, she can't afford health insurance.'"

This spring, it was Natoma Canfield who captured the president's attention.

The 50-year-old self-employed cleaning woman from Medina, Ohio, wrote to Obama that she had to drop her health coverage after her premiums shot up 40 percent. She feared losing her home if health bills started piling up.

Obama wrote back, "It's because of folks like you that we are still fighting to get health care done!"

He read Canfield's letter aloud to insurance company CEOs. His spokesman read it at a White House briefing. The White House invited Canfield's sister to introduce the president at an Ohio rally, where Obama expanded on her story, adding the news that she'd recently collapsed and been hospitalized.

"I'm here for Natoma," he declared.

The case humanized Obama's final push for health care. But it also demonstrated the dangers of what Obama's critics see as using people as props and oversimplifying complex issues with gripping anecdotes.

It turns out that Canfield most likely qualifies for Medicaid health coverage and the Cleveland Clinic, where she is being cared for, has no plans to put a lien on her home.

"You can find a story to suit any purpose," says Stanley Renshon, a political psychologist at the City University of New York. "It's willing exploitation—people who want to lend themselves to a story line."

It was all too much for some Obama critics.

Conservative commentator Glenn Beck parodied Obama's letters with one from "Gertrude," complaining about the president's constant talk about his letters. "When do we find relief?" Beck read. "In our small town alone, 1,457 people have attempted suicide simply because they are sick and tired of hearing Barack Obama read letters or talk about letters that he reads every night."

Obama is as likely to answer his critics as supporters, aides say.

Jenn Whitcomb, who worked as a field organizer for Obama during the 2008 campaign, wrote to Obama last fall expressing her frustrations that he was taking a weak position on providing people with a public option for health coverage. "My father is going to die before he sees help from the government," Whitcomb wrote shortly before his death.

Obama wrote back to say he was sorry about her father and asked her not to be discouraged.

"The final bill may not be perfect—nothing is—but I guarantee it will help millions like your dad," he wrote.

The letters to Obama aren't all gloom and doom - there's comic relief in there, too.

One boy sent Obama his math homework and asked what the president thought. Obama checked it out and wrote back, "I think you only missed two."

Documents: Anesthetic found in Jackson home

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Unsealed search warrants in the Michael Jackson case reveal large quantities of general anesthetic and dozens of tubes of skin-whitening creams were among items found in the singer's home after his death.

Investigators went to Jackson's rented mansion June 29 following a lengthy interview with his personal physician, Dr. Conrad Murray, who told them he had placed a medical bag in a cupboard in a closet.

At the home, detectives found 11 containers of the powerful anesthetic propofol, some of them empty, as well as a range of sedatives and various medical items including a box of blood pressure cuffs, according to the warrants, which were redacted and unsealed Friday after The Associated Press filed a legal motion.

Jackson's June 25 death at age 50 was ruled a homicide caused by an overdose of propofol and other sedatives. Murray has pleaded not guilty to involuntary manslaughter.

During their search, detectives found 19 tubes of hydroquinone and 18 tubes of Benoquin, both of which are commonly used in the treatment of a skin condition Jackson had called vitiligo. The disease creates patches of de-pigmented skin, and creams can be used to lighten skin that has retained its color to give a more even appearance.

The discovery of medical creams in Jackson's home dovetails with an odd remark Murray reportedly made soon after Jackson's death.

According to police statements obtained by the AP, Jackson's personal assistant, Michael Amir Williams, told detectives that in the hospital where Jackson was pronounced dead, Murray told him he wanted to return to Jackson's house "so that he could pick up some cream that Mr. Jackson has so that the world wouldn't find out about it."

Alberto Alvarez, Jackson's logistics director, who was summoned to the stricken star's side as he was dying, told police Murray interrupted CPR on the pop star to collect drug vials. He gave the vials and an IV line with a milky substance resembling propofol to Alvarez, according to the statement Alvarez gave police, and told him to put them in bags that were similar in description to those later found in the closet.

The skin cream was not listed as a factor in Jackson's death nor was it detected in a toxicology report. What killed Jackson, according to the autopsy report, was an overdose of propofol, an anesthetic normally used for surgery. Murray told police he gave it to Jackson to help him sleep, a use anesthesiology experts have said is grossly improper.

Dr. Zeev Kain, anesthesiology department chair at the University of California, Irvine Medical Center, said he was surprised by the amount of propofol detectives found. Among the 11 containers police said they found were three 100ml vials, which Kain said could be used as general anesthesia for several hours.

"A doctor should not use propofol at home to start with," Kain said.

The warrants also show Murray shipped propofol and other medications to his girlfriend Nicole Alvarez's house in Santa Monica. It's unusual to send propofol to a private residence but not illegal.

Facinelli capitalizing on 'Jackie,' 'Twilight'

NEW YORK (AP)—Early on in their careers, many actors question whether their dreams to be in show business are realistic goals. For "Twilight" actor Peter Facinelli, that internal struggle came when he was about eight.

"I was just really shy, and there was one part of my brain saying, 'You should go be an actor' and the other part of my brain going, 'You're really nuts because I can't even stand in the lunch line in school because I'm afraid of people,'" he recalls.

But his artistic side overtook his practical one. He ended up studying theater at New York University and now not only stars in the white-hot "Twilight" movie series, but has also won acclaim for his supporting role as Dr. Fitch Cooper on the Showtime cable network's "Nurse Jackie."

The dark comedy, which had its second season premiere in the U.S. last week, was the most-watched new series in Showtime's history when it debuted last year.

"I'm a fan of the show. I love watching these characters and how they all interact ... and to see how they react off of each other, and how they get along and don't get along," Facinelli said.

Edie Falco stars as Nurse Jackie Peyton, a drug addict who is both unethical on the job and in her marriage. Facinelli's character, a young, Ivy League-educated know-it-all, is somewhat smitten with his co-worker.

"He's kind of like the kid in third grade who has a crush on somebody, but it's not being reciprocated, so he's constantly pulling on her pigtails trying to get a reaction out of her," he said.

Facinelli, who plays the patriarch vampire clan leader Dr. Carlisle Cullen in the "Twilight" series, returns with the third installment, "Eclipse," out June 30. Facinelli says "Eclipse" will be more action-based and will feature the Cullens in a different light.

"Usually, they're very buttoned-up and you know, always trying to appear human and be in control. And in this movie, we have this looming presence throughout the whole movie that's hard to stay in control all the time," he said.

With steady projects on his resume, Facinelli, 36, is capitalizing on his success by writing movies. He's penned the TV-film "Mulligan," which will star is wife, former "Beverly Hills 90210" actress Jennie Garth.

"I finished writing it and then she read it and said, 'Hey if you ever make this I want to play this.' And I said, 'We'll see. Maybe you'll come in and audition for it,'" Facinelli said with a laugh.

He also wrote and will star in the romantic comedy "Loosies," about a pickpocket in New York who has commitment issues and learns from a one-night stand that he's a father-to-be. And he'll star in the biopic "Paz," based on the life of boxer Vinny Pazienze.

Facinelli has become a popular face in Hollywood, and he has more than 1.5 million followers on Twitter to prove it.

"Some people get mad because they say, 'You used to respond more,' but I found that my responsibility has shifted. I used to respond more when I had few followers. Now I can't respond to every single thing but I still read them all," he said.

AP

In this March 18, 2010 file photo, Peter Facinelli attends the Nurse Jackie RX Games in support of the new season of Showtime's "Nurse Jackie" in New York.

Mummies are showstoppers in 'Silk Road' at Bowers

SANTA ANA, California (AP)—Mystery, dazzle and awe unite the mummies of a man, woman and child who were found in China's Tarim Basin at different times in different places for an exhibition so rich in history it contains some of the earliest known baby bottles, trousers, sunglasses and pasta.

"Secrets of the Silk Road: Mystery Mummies of China" opens Saturday at the Bowers Museum. Ten years in the works, it will be the first time the mummies will be seen outside of Asia.

"The Beauty of Xaiohe" is around 3,800 years old and is one of the most perfectly preserved mummies ever discovered, said exhibit catalog editor Victor Mair, a professor of Chinese language and literature at the University of Pennsylvania.

"I call her the Marlene Dietrich of the desert. She is stunning," he said.

A reddish, dishwater blonde, the beauty has long, full eyelashes and is wearing a rakish corded hat with a feather. She probably died in her early 30s, Mair said.

Because of her eyelashes, "I keep joking we ought to get Maybelline to sponsor this," said Peter C. Keller, president of the Bowers.

Her remains were found at Small River Cemetery No. 5 (Xaiohe means small river).

Bluebonnet Baby, around 9 months old, and Yingpan Man, about 55 when he died, were found at different burial sites a couple hundred miles (kilometers) apart in the Tarim Basin in the Far Western Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China.

They were all discovered along what would become known as the Silk Road, the rambling, braided trading route between Central Asia and China named for the luxurious fabrics that exchanged hands, along with spices, gold, exotic animals, furs and jade.

None of the mummies are Asian-looking, Mair said. They are light-skinned with round eyes, long noses and red or blonde hair.

The beautiful woman lived nearly 1,800 years before the Silk Road was established. "They were just isolated people. They are not trading on a large scale. They're just subsistence, just making do. I call them egg roll pastoralists. They have sheep and goats and cattle, all of which came from western Asia," Mair said. They also know how to grow wheat, he said, another Asian product.

ON THE NET

- Bowers Museum: www.bowers.org

China is protective of its ancient mummies, so many tests have yet to be done, including CT scans and other tests that could tell scientists about the people's last meals, intestines, hair follicles, diet, cause of death, lungs and other factors.

The exhibit comes with more than 150 pieces of clothing, implements, coins, documents, masks, jewelry, coffins and other items found at the burial sites.

"Everything is beautifully preserved. There's a pair of shoes in the exhibit that you could wear today, made out of cattails. I could see a designer actually copying them," Keller said.

The child, about 2,800 years old, is displayed next to a sheep's udder shaped into a conelike drinking vessel. "You can say it's the world's first baby bottle," Mair said.

"He's wrapped in a beautiful purply, red, brown blanket which has a different color from whatever side you look at it. They have used red dye on natural brown wool, so you get the same effect as a woman with brown hair who hennas her hair," said Elizabeth Barber, a member of the curating team, a prehistorian and noted textile expert from Occidental College in Los Angeles.

Barber was impressed with how much the ancient people did with so little. "The baby blanket has a texture stripe in it. By overspinning the yarn and putting three rows of it in every once in a while, it gnarls up in the cloth and makes the texture stripe," she said.

"The face is just beautiful. You can see these long eyelashes and these little reddish brown eyebrows and this little ski-jump nose," she said, but the mouth is covered by a layered cashmere bonnet.

Baby Bluebonnet was found next to a tomb in the south Tarim Basin that held a man and three women, Barber said. Three adults were mummified and one was a skeleton, but the colors and cording on their clothing identified them as a family.

About 10 percent of the bodies found in the cemetery were mummified and the rest were not.

Natural mummification occurred in the winter, when temperatures dipped far below zero, while dying in the summer ensured deterioration, Barber said.

The bodies that were mummified had freeze dried, then when spring and hot weather came, there was no moisture left to aide decomposition.

Barber believes the man and two women were laid out on the ground and froze while their tomb was dug deep into the rock salt. They were just about to close up the tomb when the third woman died and they made room for her. But she didn't spend any time on the surface so she didn't freeze. As a result, her flesh deteriorated, leaving only skeletal remains.

The baby died after the tomb was closed, so rather than reopen it, they dug a shallow grave for the baby. Being so small and so close to the surface, the baby's body froze and mummified.

The third mummy in the exhibit is just clothing and a mask that belonged to Yingpan Man, who died when he was about 55. He is around 2,000 years old and his remains were found in the north Tarim Basin. The body was taken out when the clothing was sent for study at the National Silk Museum, Mair said.

"He has the most amazing, spectacular, splendid garments that he's wearing, with classical, Western, European, Mediterranean, Greek and Roman kinds of designs on it. It's kind of tour de force clothing, really showing off. He must have been extremely wealthy. He had an extra set of clothing on his belly," Mair said.

He was at one time thought to be 6 feet and 6 inches (198 centimeters), but his height has been lowered by about six inches (15 centimeters), Barber said.

"He has a white mask on his face and gold on his forehead and his boots, Mair said. "He was really lavishly duded up for death. We think he was a trader, out in the middle of nowhere but a very strategic trading post. He had some Roman glass in the tomb with him and other things that indicate he had long distance connections along what had by now had become the Silk Road," Mair said.

The mummies are the centerpieces of the exhibit, but Mair said other parts are just as mesmerizing, including bronze eyeshades and the fried dough twist, men's pants, combs, fans, games and masks.

But his favorite piece is a 2,500-year-old kneeling bronze warrior, about a foot (30 centimeters) tall, with a bare chest, a big nose and round eyes.

"I can just stare at this guy for hours and he's not a mummy. He's a statue," Mair said. "What was he doing in the mountains in the middle of Asia? What kind of people would have cared?"

The exhibit runs at the Bowers through July 25, then goes to the Houston Museum of Natural Science from Aug. 28 to Jan. 2, 2011, then the University of Pennsylvania Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology from Feb. 5 to June 5 of 2011. Keller said a fourth site was under consideration.

AP

A museum employee photographs the Beauty of Xiaohe, a 3,800-year-old mummy discovered in the Tarim Basin in far western China, at the "Secrets of the Silk Road: Mystery Mummies from China," exhibit at the Bowers Museum in Santa Ana, Calif., Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Lautner, Miley Cyrus win Kids' Choice Awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Team Jacob was triumphant at the Kids' Choice Awards. "Twilight" star Taylor Lautner picked up two orange, blimp-shaped trophies at Saturday's 23rd annual shenanigan-packed Nickelodeon spectacle inside UCLA's Pauley Pavilion. Lautner snared the favorite actor honor for his "New Moon" role as hunky werewolf Jacob Black as well as the inaugural cutest couple award with his "Twilight" co-star Kristin Stewart.

"I have to admit I have always dreamt of winning one of these orange blimps," said Lautner.

The fan-favorite ceremony's host, "Paul Blart: Mall Cop" actor-comedian Kevin James, kicked off the show by performing a hip-hop dance routine as Adam Sandler serenaded him from above while dressed as an angel and fountains of green slime spontaneously gushed on the first few rows of the audience. James said more than 115 million votes were received this year.

Katy Perry, wearing a bright blue wig and skintight flowery dress, was blasted with slime when presenting the favorite movie actress trophy to Miley Cyrus. The gooey "I Kissed a Girl" singer chased the "Hannah Montana" actress around the stage, but co-presenter Jonah Hill grabbed Perry before she could embrace the 17-year-old singer-actress with a slimy hug.

"I can't see anything," complained Perry. "Why does it taste like boogers?"

Other favorites included "Alvin and The Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" for movie, "Up" for animated movie, Jim Carrey for voice from an animated movie for "A Christmas Carol," "Mario Kart" for video game, "iCarly" for TV show, "American Idol" for reality show, "SpongeBob SquarePants" for cartoon, Dylan Sprouse for TV actor and Selena Gomez for TV actress.

"I'm the luckiest girl in the whole world," said Gomez.

In the music categories, the winners were Black Eyed Peas for music group, Jay-Z for male singer and Taylor Swift for female singer and song for "You Belong With Me." Favorites in the sports categories were two-time Olympic gold medalist volleyball player Misty May Treanor for female athlete and 20-year-old skateboarder Ryan Sheckler for male athlete.

AP PHOTO/MATT SAYLES

Taylor Lautner accepts the award for favorite movie actor at Nickelodeon's 23rd Annual Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday, March 27, 2010, in Los Angeles.

"This goes right in the trophy case," Sheckler said holding up his blimp.

First lady Michelle Obama won the ceremony's "Big Help" award for her "Let's Move" campaign to cut down on childhood obesity. The honor is part of Nick's own "Millions on the Move" campaign. Over the next few months, the network will feature public service announcements to encourage kids to stay active and promote activities that help the environment.

John Cusack goes back to the '80s in 'Hot Tub'

By SANDY COHEN
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The '80s were good to John Cusack. He was a teenager then, racking up acting credits in films such as "Sixteen Candles," ''The Sure Thing," ''Better Off Dead" and "Say Anything."

Now 43, Cusack returns to that storied decade on screen and off as the star and producer of "Hot Tub Time Machine," a comic romp that brings four friends back to their youthful glory days via a mysterious Jacuzzi powered by Russian Red Bull and repaired by a cryptic Chevy Chase.

AP

In this March 20, 2010 photo, actor John Cusack poses for a portrait in Los Angeles.

In the film, opening Friday, Cusack and Chase, along with Rob Corddry, Craig Robinson, Clark Duke and Crispin Glover, find themselves at a ski resort for Winterfest '86, where Poison is the headlining band and Day-Glo is the fashion of choice.

Cusack talked with The Associated Press about what he loved and hated about the '80s and what he would do with a real time machine.

AP: What made you want to go back to the 1980s?

Cusack: I remember it being — obviously it was the formative years of my life because I was between 10 and 20 — but I don't remember it being all that cheery a time, so I thought that having some actors who had been in movies back then, going back in time and actually being a movie within a movie, I thought that all that was part of the comic nightmare of it.

AP: What were the most awesome things about the '80s?

Cusack: There was great music, great art, great literature, great films. Those are usually some of the things that I like.

AP: Were you more Motley Crue or The Cure?

Cusack: I was more of the Clash, Fishbone, The Jam.

AP: You did not mention fashion as one of the awesome things about the '80s.

Cusack: I think that would have to fall under the terrifying things of the '80s. The legwarmers, the scrunchies, the mullets, the primary colors. The list goes on and on. And I have a wide variety of fashion horror shows myself that's available on cable, seemingly all the time.

AP: If you had a real hot tub time machine that worked, where would you go and why?

Cusack: It would be pretty fun if you could go back to when your favorite bands were first playing. Like if you were a drummer, you could go back to Liverpool right when the Beatles fired Pete Best and they're looking for a drummer and replace Ringo Starr. There could be a couple historic opportunities there. Or you could go see the Rolling Stones' first American tour or something, or see David Bowie or see the Sex Pistols when they first came to America at CBGBs. You could do an awesome rock 'n' roll tour and see bands' first explosions.

You could also travel back in time and not meet people that you ended up meeting and going out with. You could avoid a few bad relationships by just actually not bumping into them, so that would be good.

Fox says Kiefer Sutherland's '24' will end May 24

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The drama "24" won't be ticking much longer on TV. Fox announced Friday that its action-packed real-time show starring Kiefer Sutherland as anti-terrorism agent Jack Bauer will wind down at the end of its current eighth season on May 24.

Sutherland said in a statement that the show's cast and crew "always wanted '24' to finish on a high note, so the decision to make the eighth season our last was one we all agreed upon." He also said he was looking forward to creating a film version of "24."

The show has received 68 Emmy nominations, winning for outstanding drama series and for Sutherland as lead drama actor in 2006.

"This has been the role of a lifetime, and I will never be able to fully express my appreciation to everyone who made it possible," Sutherland said. "But when all is said and done, it is the loyal worldwide fan base that made it possible for me to have the experience of playing the role of Jack Bauer, and for that I am eternally grateful."

Premiering Nov. 6, 2001, "24" used an innovative real-time, split-screen format to present fast-paced interwoven storylines. Each episode covered one hour of the season's 24-hour story arc.

The first six seasons were set in Los Angeles. Following a one-year break forced by the writers strike, season seven went to Africa and Washington, D.C.

The current season has Agent Bauer thwarting a terrorist attack in New York.

By the end of this season, "24" will have presented 194 episodes, making it one of television's longest-running action shows.

A frail Dennis Hopper finally gets Hollywood star

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A bandaged and frail Dennis Hopper was surrounded by friends, family and colleagues Friday as he was honored with a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame.

The 73-year-old actor and filmmaker, who is battling prostate cancer, appeared gaunt and was helped to the stage by a friend. Hopper explained that bandages on his right arm and eye were the result of a fall Thursday outside his home.

The two-time Oscar nominee, who has appeared in more than 100 films, said he came to Hollywood from his native Kansas at 18, "so that was my college."

"Everything I've learned, I've learned from Hollywood," he said. "This has been my home and my schooling."

As Hopper was speaking, a Hollywood tour bus passed slowly by the sidewalk ceremony and the tour guide said over the loudspeaker, "We love you Dennis."

AP

Actor Dennis Hopper is honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame on Friday, March 26, 2010, in Los Angeles.

Jack Nicholson, Viggo Mortensen, David Lynch and Dwight Yoakam were among the luminaries on hand to honor their friend and colleague. Nicholson wore a shirt decorated with images from "Easy Rider," the classic 1969 road film Hopper wrote, directed and starred in, alongside Peter Fonda.

Mortensen, who kissed Hopper on the cheek before approaching the microphone, called his friend of 20 years "a complete and fertile artist" who has been "a constant source of ideas, inspiration and humor for his friends and colleagues."

Another longtime friend, producer Mark Canton, said Hopper is "the coolest guy on the planet," which elicited a broad smile from the ailing star.

"He is a force of nature," Canton said. "He is a world-class original, a legend in his own right, whose impact on the arts and people that he loves so dearly is second to none."

As Hopper's star in front of the historic Egyptian Theatre was unveiled, the actor's 7-year-old daughter, Galen, threw her arms around her father's neck.

Ludacris says he wanted Lauryn Hill for 'Sexes' CD

By MESFIN FEKADU
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—Ludacris' latest album features a number of female rappers—but the Grammy-winner acknowledges there's one lady he really wanted to work with.

"I think Lauryn Hill is like extremely talented and I can say I did try to do that, it just didn't work itself out," he says of the multiple Grammy-winning singer-rapper, whose only studio album, "The Miseducation of Lauryn Hill," has sold more than eight million units in the United States since its release in 1998.

While the reclusive former Fugees performer didn't make it on "Battle of the Sexes," Ludacris' seventh studio release, he successfully recruited Lil Kim, Eve, Trina and newcomer Nicki Minaj.

Though he's managed to surround himself with female rappers on the new album, Ludacris knows that women haven't had the greatest success in hip-hop, especially in the last few years. He says that's because female rappers misjudge their audience.

"They want to rap for the guys when they should be rapping and being themselves and talking about what's going on with them," said Ludacris. "We want to hear women talk more about what women do as opposed to trying to be like men or talk about what men do."

"Battle of the Sexes" debuted at No. 1 on the Billboard 200 album charts this month.

Cowell to get International Emmy Award

NEW YORK (AP)—Simon Cowell will receive the 2010 International Emmy Founders Award for his work in television.

The 50-year-old British recording executive and TV personality is a judge on the popular U.S. singing competition show "American Idol." He's also known for the "Got Talent" and "X Factor" franchises.

International Academy President Bruce Paisner says Cowell "has built an international empire and in so doing has changed the face of television around the world."

Cowell will receive the award at a New York gala on Nov. 22. He said in a statement Thursday that he's "delighted," and has been "very lucky to be able to make shows that I love."

AP

In this Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009 file photo, Simon Cowell poses on the press line at the Elton John Academy Award viewing and after party in West Hollywood, Calif.

Domingo returns after cancer, singing privately

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Placido Domingo says he is still recovering following surgery to remove a cancerous polyp from his colon, but he has returned to work and resumed singing in private—and plans to be back on stage in a couple weeks.

The 69-year-old Spanish tenor became ill on tour in Tokyo, had surgery early this month at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York and has been recuperating in Acapulco, Mexico.

He returned to Los Angeles on Thursday and a few hours later was back at work as director of the Los Angeles Opera Company.

Domingo told reporters during a break he planned to begin rehearsals for "Simon Boccanegra" at Italy's La Scala in two weeks.

The malignancy was localized so Domingo was able to undergo minimally invasive surgery to remove the polyp.

AP

in this July 26, 2009 file photo tenor Placido Domingo pose on the grid prior to the start of the Hungarian Formula One Grand Prix at the Hungaroring circuit near Budapest, Hungary.

Ridley Scott's 'Robin Hood' to open Cannes

PARIS (AP)—Director Ridley Scott's "Robin Hood," starring Russell Crowe in the role of the famed outlaw, will open the Cannes Film Festival on May 12.

The festival said Friday that the film will not compete for prizes.

Crowe has already teamed up with Scott many times, in "Gladiator," ''A Good Year," ''American Gangster" and "Body of Lies."

By playing Robin Hood on screen, Crowe follows in the footsteps of Errol Flynn, Sean Connery and Kevin Costner. Cate Blanchett plays his love interest, Maid Marian.

The festival runs from May 12 to 23.

Prince ordered to pay Irish promoter $3 million

DUBLIN (AP)—A Dublin judge ordered U.S. pop singer Prince to pay €2.2 million ($2.95 million) to Irish concert promoters Friday for canceling a 2008 concert at the last minute.

High Court Justice Peter Kelly said he was making the total damages public because Prince has yet to pay anything to Dublin promoters MCD Productions Ltd. in their confidential settlement reached Feb. 26.

Kelly ruled that Prince had committed to perform in Dublin's 82,300-seat Croke Park in June 2008, but withdrew without explanation just days beforehand, after 55,000 tickets were sold. The 51-year-old Prince did not testify at last month's hearing.

Kelly said Friday his order was specifically against Prince, not his agents from the William Morris agency, who were absolved of liability. Prince's lawyer Paul Sreenan consented to the order.

MCD lawyer Maurice Collins said he might seek to pursue Prince using a more powerful European Enforcement Order if the performer didn't pay up soon.

MCD, Ireland's biggest concert organizers, said it had paid Prince half of his demanded $3 million fee up front, another €700,000 ($950,000) to book Croke Park for the night, advertised the concert aggressively and refunded all 55,000 tickets.

During last month's court hearing, William Morris agent Marc Geiger testified that he rarely spoke to Prince directly and found him one of his toughest clients to understand or nail down.

Geiger said he told Prince of the fury that the singer was causing MCD owner Denis Desmond during a rare face-to-face meeting in Los Angeles on June 3, 2008. He quoted Prince as replying, "Tell the cat to chill. We will work something out."

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Gay group protests film at Tribeca Film Festival

NEW YORK (AP)—The Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation is calling on the Tribeca Film Festival to pull a transgender comedy from its lineup. The film, "Ticked-Off Trannies with Knives," pays homage to exploitation films and follows a group of transgender women who are beaten and then seek revenge. It's to screen at Tribeca in April. GLAAD alleges the film misrepresents the lives of transgender women and claims the characters are caricatures "written as drag queens." The organization also objected to the use of the word "trannies" in the title. Director Israel Luna and producer Toni Miller released a joint statement in response, saying they were surprised by GLAAD's announcement and that they gave a copy of the film to GLAAD in February. In a statement, Tribeca said it is "proud of its ongoing commitment to bring diverse voices and stories to its audiences."

New Zealand writer wins British short story prize

LONDON (AP)—New Zealand poet and novelist CK Stead was awarded a 25,000 pound ($37,250) prize for a short story Friday. Stead, 77, won The Sunday Times EFG Private Bank Short Story Award for "Last Season's Man", in which a young writer criticizes a respected elder and damages his reputation. The bittersweet ending reveals who has the last laugh. The award—judged by writers including AS Byatt, Hanif Kureishi and Nick Hornby—was billed as the most valuable prize for short stories in the world. Kureishi said the winning title, chosen from a shortlist of five, is a "wry, perceptive look at rivalry and love" and a "fine example of how a short story should be constructed and written." The award is a new literary prize that builds on the success of The Sunday Times Magazine's weekly short fiction slot.

NJ judge refuses to block 'Jersey Shore' episodes

TOMS RIVER, N.J. (AP)—A New Jersey judge has again denied a request to block the release of episodes of the MTV reality series "Jersey Shore." State Superior Court Judge Joseph Foster rejected the request of three people who say their reputations will be damaged because they're shown fighting with cast members. An attorney for the three complained after a published report said MTV planned a global release of the series, which focuses on the escapades of eight 20-something Italian-Americans at a shore house. Last month the judge denied a man's request to block the DVD release of the show's first season. The man says he was beaten during an episode. The other two litigants are a police officer fired after an episode showed him in a fight with cast members and the officer's wife.

Paparazzo arrested after scuffle for spot at LAX

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A battle by a pair of paparazzi at Los Angeles International Airport ended with one of them in the hospital and the other in jail. Airport police spokeswoman Sgt. Belinda Nettles said Saturday that 42-year-old Stefan Saad was arrested on suspicion of felony battery after the Friday night scuffle with another photographer as the two tried to get a spot on an airport curb for a shot of British singer Pixie Lott. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Web site said Saad was released Saturday after posting $50,000 bail. Nettles says the second paparazzo was treated at a local hospital. His name and condition were not released.

Uncredited use of photos has woman ready to snap

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: For the past several years, my husband's sister-in-law, "Janine," has used my photographs (with my permission) in calendars she has made as gifts to different family members. One year, I asked her if she would have one made for me since most of the photos in it were mine. Her answer: "No, make your own."

Last year, at a cousin's wedding, Janine came up to me and told me to be sure to take some "good pictures" for HER calendar. I just about lost it! And for the current year's calendar, she had her husband ask for 12 more photos.

I feel Janine has been using me to give gifts with her name on them to other family members. I get none of the credit for having taken the pictures. It seems to me that she is stealing. What do you think?

"DEVELOPING" A GRUDGE IN KANSAS

DEAR "DEVELOPING": I disagree that what your sister-in-law is doing is stealing, because by giving her the pictures with no conditional stipulation—in this case, being given the credit for having taken them—you are enabling her. And I "think" the time has come for you to insist that your name be on the pictures, or that she take her own photos for "her" calendar. Don't you?

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend is 43 and I am 48. I admit he moved in very fast—a few weeks after he lost his job.

After three months his mood began to change. He tells me he loves me and I'm the greatest thing that ever happened to him, but I noticed he was becoming quiet and withdrawn. I texted him at work to ask if something was wrong, and he said "things" were on his mind. I asked was it me? He said no.

When he came home I asked what was wrong, and he said things were happening too fast, that he wanted his own place and to move around as he wants to. I asked him if he sees me in his future, and he said, "Yes. Just bear with me and give me some time."

I need advice, Abby. I am so confused. I love him dearly.

TORN APART IN TOMBALL, TEXAS

DEAR TORN APART: When a man tells you things have moved too quickly and he needs time and space, that is what you have to give him. He may care for you, but unless you give him the chance to miss the comforts you provide him, what you want won't happen. And the harder you try to cling, the more it will drive him away.

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter is being married for the first time to the father of her two children. She is planning a large traditional wedding in which her father will give her away. She wants to include their children in the ceremony, too.

Under the circumstances, wouldn't a small wedding (without the long white dress and associated traditions) be more appropriate? My opinion has not been requested, nor would I ever provide it, but I am curious because I believe some of the older relatives in the family may be shocked.

SOMEWHAT SHOCKED MYSELF IN SOUTH CAROLINA

DEAR SOMEWHAT: Unless the older relatives in the family have been living in seclusion, with no magazines, tabloids, television and the Internet, I'm sure they realize that in the last 40 years some of the old rules have been retired. Among them: restrictions against large church weddings for longtime cohabitating couples and white dresses for non-virgin brides. Should any of the old folks show signs of shock, offer a shoulder for them to lean on. But don't be surprised if none of them is surprised at all.

TO MY JEWISH READERS: Sundown marks the first night of Passover. Happy Passover, everyone!

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

I'M FREE! I'M FREE!
AT LAST! HOME SWEET HO...
OH NO.
HOO HOO! THAT WAS A GOOD ONE! LOOK HOW FAR WE LANDED!
A HOUSE WITH A TIGER IS NEVER A HOME.
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Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M HERE TO HELP
SEE HOW MUCH LESS WE'RE GETTING DONE AS A TEAM?
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www.garfield.com
JIM DAVIS 3-29
Distributed by Universal Uclick

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

ALL THESE BILLS! RRRR! SO FRUSTRATED!
TAKE A BREAK.
NEW ONES KEEP SHOWING UP AND THE OLD ONES DON'T GO AWAY.
(SORTA LIKE THE HAIRS ON YOUR BACK.)
WHAT?
UMM... I SAID "LEMME RUB THE CARES OUT OF YOUR BACK."
OLIVE BRANCH ACCEPTED... CONCENTRATE ON THE SHOULDERS.
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www.gocomics.com

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE CANCELING MY "ON DEMAND" CABLE SERVICE BECAUSE I HAVEN'T PAID THE BILL?
I DEMAND THAT YOU LET ME SLIDE ANOTHER MONTH!
DANG! I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS GOING TO WORK.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Cauldron
4 Surprise cries
7 FDR's dog
11 Essen's river
13 "Phooey!"
14 PC picture
15 First name of 18-Across
16 Anger
17 Lascivious
18 Modernist poet
20 Otherwise
22 Youngster
24 Melted-cheese dish
28 Sleepwear
32 Exceedingly
33 Egg
34 — Kippur
36 London art gallery
37 Gold or silver
39 Yellow-orange
41 Roman magistrate
43 Sticky stuff
44 Black, in poetry
46 Light carriage
50 Options list
53 Female deer
55 — contendere
56 Culture medium
57 Very long time
58 Active one
59 Mutts
60 Single
61 Doctor's due

DOWN
1 Get ready, for short
2 Anise-flavored liqueur
3 From one end to t'other
4 Sapporo sash
5 Tortoise's opponent
6 Ledge
7 "HTTP Error 404" message
8 High card
9 De-pressed
10 Plus
12 The unskilled
19 Poorly lit
21 Junior
23 Rotation duration
25 Cherished one
26 "Do — others ..."
27 Paradise
28 "— and Circumstance"
29 State with conviction
30 Twine fiber
31 "Help!"
35 Periodical, briefly
38 High-arc shot
40 Watch chain
42 Wild West show
45 Lunchtime, maybe
47 Blunder
48 Merriment
49 Bygone times
50 Crazed
51 Id counterpart
52 Old horse
54 Compass dir.

Solution time: 24 mins.

■	S	T	A	B	S	■	A	D	A	G	E	■
A	C	I	D	I	C	■	R	U	B	A	T	O
P	A	N	Z	E	R	■	G	E	E	Z	E	R
H	R	S	■	R	E	B	U	T	■	I	R	E
I	C	E	D	■	E	R	E	■	A	N	N	O
D	E	L	A	Y	■	O	R	A	N	G	E	S
■	■	■	V	A	T	■	S	U	N	■	■	■
S	T	R	I	K	E	R	■	K	A	P	P	A
T	O	O	T	■	N	A	E	■	S	L	A	V
U	L	T	■	B	U	G	L	E	■	A	L	E
B	L	A	Z	E	R	■	G	R	A	Z	E	R
S	E	R	E	N	E	■	A	G	H	A	S	T
■	D	Y	N	E	S	■	R	O	A	S	T	■

Saturday's answer 3-29

1	2	3	■	■	4	5	6	■	7	8	9	10
11			12	■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19	■	20		21		■	■	■
■	■	■	22		23	■	24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31	■	32				
33				■	34		35	■	36			
37				38	■	39		40				
41					42	■	43			■	■	■
■	■	■	44			45	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52		■	53		54	■	55			
56					57				58			
59				■	60			■	■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jennifer Capriati, 34; Amy Sedaris, 49; Annabella Sciorra, 50; Bud Cort, 62

Happy Birthday: Focus on achieving your goals. Your determination and serious approach will change the way others view you. Don't be shy about your likes and dislikes. Once you make it perfectly clear what you want and how you are going to get it, the rest will come easy. Your numbers are 2, 5, 16, 23, 25, 33, 40

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Take a back seat if it will help you avoid opposition or meddling. Don't confide in anyone for now. You will be misinterpreted easily. It will be hard to cover up or reverse any mistakes made. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Short trips or educational activities will motivate you and give you greater vocational options. Avoid any sort of pressure situation. Activities that will help get you into shape will be your best recourse. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You can expect to encounter unanticipated alterations due to responsibilities concerning children or elders. Treat your hobbies or sideline ventures as serious pastimes with the potential for profit. A love interest will be enticing but risky. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): New business connections can be made through the company you keep and the way you handle the situations you face. Don't let emotions rule, causing you to miss out on the potential for greater freedom. ✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't waste time arguing when you should be brainstorming. Opportunities do exist—all you have to do is recognize them and put your heart into making things work. Don't push others when it's you who needs to be shoved. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Take aggressive action when it comes to money, health or legal matters. Show your competitive drive so that no one will misunderstand your earnest intentions. A change to your current financial situation can turn a negative investment into a positive prospect. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Not everyone will be as open as you are. Hold back a little until you know what everyone else is thinking. Be strong and wait until you feel comfortable making a move. Volunteer work will open your eyes to a host of new avenues. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Don't let added responsibilities get you down. Focus, instead, on the opportunities that will help you get ahead. Take a different approach to something you have done in the past and you will attract greater interest this time around. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't make last-minute changes or try to meddle in someone's affairs. Focus on love, romance and keeping the peace with the people who have the potential to change your status or financial situation. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Be careful how you spend your time. If you neglect someone or something important, you will end up with an emotional dilemma. Aggressive action is likely to lead to obstacles and limitations. Take one step at a time. ✪✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Job projects should be at the top of your list. Ask friends and family to keep an eye out for a position that might interest you. You will reach your goals if you send out resumes or talk to people you have worked with in the past. ✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be faced with uncertainty when dealing with a partnership. Try not to limit your options. If you are honest about what you can and cannot do, you will come out ahead in the end. Don't let someone push you out of the way. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are energetic and a bit of a thrill seeker. You always strive to experience and learn more. You are aggressive and outgoing.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	6		9		2	7		
9	7					3		
				8			2	5
1				7				8
		3	2	6	4	5		
4				1				3
8	9			5				
		5					4	9
		4	3		6		5	

Difficulty Level ★ 3/29

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

2	1	6	5	3	7	9	4	8
9	3	5	4	8	2	7	6	1
4	7	8	9	6	1	2	5	3
3	5	4	2	7	9	1	8	6
6	2	7	8	1	3	5	9	4
8	9	1	6	5	4	3	2	7
1	4	9	7	2	6	8	3	5
5	6	3	1	9	8	4	7	2
7	8	2	3	4	5	6	1	9

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 3/27

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

RAMADAN IN INDONESIA **Solution: 9 letters**

M	G	G	E	G	I	C	L	A	W	W	A	H	S	H
U	A	N	N	U	A	L	U	E	D	N	W	A	D	E
K	T	G	U	I	A	M	L	S	B	A	J	E	L	W
E	H	K	H	D	N	T	E	A	T	A	T	L	E	A
N	E	A	M	R	N	E	R	S	V	O	R	S	I	R
A	R	L	A	A	I	A	V	A	V	I	M	A	F	A
Y	I	O	L	T	F	B	B	E	K	U	T	S	N	T
T	N	K	S	F	M	H	D	U	R	A	P	S	T	S
I	G	E	I	I	G	E	I	D	S	I	J	E	E	A
N	R	U	L	D	R	N	K	J	R	E	X	A	Q	F
U	S	S	D	C	U	A	O	I	R	T	S	S	U	A
M	U	K	A	E	S	M	T	R	I	A	A	O	A	M
M	B	S	R	M	B	U	I	L	A	B	H	N	T	I
O	U	U	I	A	A	I	E	C	I	S	U	M	O	L
C	H	D	T	L	P	R	R	E	Y	A	R	P	R	Y

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Annual, Bali, Bandung, Bedug, Buses, Community, Customs, Dawn, Devoted, Drums, Dusk, Equator, Evening, Family, Fast, Festival, Fields, Games, Gathering, Hijrah, Iftar, Imsak, Islam, Jakarta, Java, Kolak, Lebaran, Maghrib, Mudik, Mukena, Music, Muslim, Parks, Prayer, Rest, Sacred, Sahur, Sarong, Season, Shawwal, Spiritual, Subuh, Taraweh, Textile

Last Saturday's Answer: Reactors

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Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
(JVA 10-002)

OPENING DATE: March 26, 2010 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled

The NMI Retirement Fund is seeking a professional and motivated individual to work in a challenging environment as a Legal Counsel for the Fund. Salary maximum is $70,000, depending on experience. Benefits are commensurate with the responsibilities assigned to the successful candidate and in compliance with CNMI laws.

Interested applicants must submit their **application, resume, educational credentials, police clearance and others** as outlined in the JVA package. The complete package is available from the Fund, located on Capitol Hill, Saipan; or by e-mail through the Fund Administrator. **Mailed and hand delivered packages must be marked "JVA10-002 Confidential," and must have the applicant's name and return address on the outside of the envelope.**

Mark Aguon, Administrator
NMI Retirement Fund
P.O. Box 501247
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Attorney for Bank of Guam

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0183C
vs.	
JACQUELINE A. ATALIG, Defendant.	AMENDED SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT JACQUELINE A. ATALIG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO APPEAR by the 21st day after the fourth date of publication of this AMENDED SUMMONS and defend the above entitled action in the CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, at the Office of Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustisia, Ilmwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307; and answer the complaint of the plaintiff Bank of Guam, and serve a copy of your answer upon **Robert Tenorio Torres**, attorney for Plaintiff Bank of Guam, at **Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950;** and in case of failure to do so, judgement will be rendered against you according to the demand of the COMPLAINT, which has been filed with the Clerk of Court.

So **ORDERED** this 4th day of March, 2010.

/s/ Clerk of Court

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Classified Ads

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- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in this section

W. Virginia beats Kentucky to reach Final Four

SYRACUSE, N.Y. (AP)— Country roads, take me home.

Or better yet, Indianapolis.

It's almost heaven, West Virginia. Da'Sean Butler and the Mountaineers are off to the Final Four for the first time since 1959.

Joe Mazzulla scored a career-high 17 points in his first start this season and West Virginia handled a cold-shooting Kentucky team stocked with future NBA players almost from the opening tip for a 73-66 victory in the East Regional final Saturday night.

"It's something we've been preaching," Butler said. "Not even just two more. Ever since we won our first game. Five more, four more, three more. It doesn't mean anything unless you win the whole thing."

Mountaineers coach Bob Huggins, back with his alma mater, is in the Final Four for the first time since taking Cincinnati in 1992. It's an even longer stretch for West Virginia—Jerry West was the star of the team 51 years ago, and not yet a Hall of Famer or NBA logo.

"The first day I was here, I told them I came back to win a national championship," Huggins said. "I came back to win it for the university, having played there, and for the great people of our state."

For freshman sensation John Wall and the young Wildcats (35-3), a scintillating season ended with a clang.

They were awful from 3-point range, missing their first 20 attempts and finishing a stunning 4 of 32 (12.5 percent). DeAndre Liggins finally hit a 3 with 3:29 left to end the drought, but by then it was too late.

West Virginia went the other way, making eight 3s in the first half without a 2-point basket.

The second-seeded Mountaineers (31-6) used the same aggressive, in-your-face defense that led them to their three previous tournament wins. They closed the lanes, leaving Kentucky's speedy guards with few chances to penetrate. And they flustered Kentucky's big men, particularly center DeMarcus Cousins, by collapsing three players into the post once he got the ball.

West Virginia also denied the top-seeded Wildcats easy shots by committing fouls and forcing Kentucky to make free throws, which didn't happen. The Wildcats went 16 of 29 from the line.

"We made it very difficult for them to see open cutters and just make plays in general," Butler said.

Kentucky coach John Calipari led his talented team to the regional final in his first season, restoring the Wildcats among college basketball's elite after several underachieving seasons.

But they showed their inexperience in this one, misfiring all night after using a swarming defense to beat tournament darling Cornell in the round of 16.

Calipari was left staring at the Carrier Dome roof, wondering what he could do. Now, his focus shifts to which Wildcats are coming back.

Wall, who scored 19 points, might be the No. 1 overall pick in the NBA draft if he decides he's one-and-done at UK. Cousins, another fab freshman, and Patrick Patterson also could bolt the Bluegrass for the NBA. Cousins scored 15 points.

"We've had games where we missed free throws and 3-pointers, but our defense, we gave up a lot of layups. And they just outplayed us," Cousins said. "We played bad defense. We were supposed to go under the screen but we were going over, which was giving them layups. I mean, simple stuff that we know better."

After the sudden end to the season, Wall was noncommittal about his future.

"We wanted to make it as far as we wanted to and that was the championship. We got it cut short," he said.

Calipari built Kentucky into a championship contender again, and the Wildcats routed their first two tournament opponents. They became favorites to win an eighth national title when No. 1 overall seed Kansas was upset in the second round.

But other than an 11-0 run early, the Wildcats were wildly ineffective all game. Darius Miller missed all six shots, and Patterson and Eric Bledsoe were a combined 6 for 16.

Joe Mazzulla, meanwhile, played the game of his life when West Virginia really needed it.

Hindered by a surgically repaired shoulder, the backup guard came off the bench in 35 games this season and averaged 2.2 points—barely worth a mention in most scouting reports. He started Saturday because West Virginia point guard Darryl Bryant broke his right foot Tuesday in practice.

Mazzulla dashed uncontested to the rim for several easy baskets. When he was out of the game, he was on all fours in front of the bench slamming the court in encouragement.

Mazzulla thanked Huggins for sticking with him as he recovered from his injury.

"He still gave me a role," Mazzulla said. "That kind of helped my perseverance."

West Virginia fans chanted "Final Four! Final Four!" as the players took their spots at halfcourt after the final buzzer. Butler, who scored 18 points, led the Mountaineers in a little Final Four dance and they cupped their ears to the crowd.

"I talked about it being special," Huggins told the crowd. "Two more and it will be really special."

AP

West Virginia's Da'Sean Butler (1) celebrates with teammate Joe Mazzulla (21) after the final game against Kentucky in the East Regional of the NCAA college basketball tournament Saturday, March 27, 2010, in Syracuse, N.Y.

No. 5 Butler 63, No. 2 Kansas State 56

At Salt Lake City, every day they walk into practice, they also walk onto a movie set—the one where they filmed the story about the little team that gets its big chance and lives out the unthinkable dream.

That's the story of "Hoosiers."

That's also the story of Butler—the team that's reminding everyone that big schools with big money don't have a monopoly on everything in big-time sports.

Yes, the boys from Butler did it—getting 22 points from Gordon Hayward to defeat Kansas State 63-56 in the West Regional final Saturday and advance to the Final Four.

Next, the Bulldogs take their 24-game winning streak to downtown Indy. Though only five miles from the Butler campus, it's hard to think of many programs that have taken a longer, more unlikely road to get this close to a championship.

"It'd be just as cool if we moved it to Hinkle," Butler coach Brad Stevens said of his team's fieldhouse. "I'd be all for that."

No such luck. Still, the fifth-seeded Bulldogs (32-4) are writing their own underdog story, even if they can't really be called underdogs anymore.

Shelvin Mack scored 16 and Ronald Nored and Willie Veasley keyed an in-your-face defensive effort on K-State guards Jacob Pullen and Denis Clemente to help Butler become the first school from a true, mid-major conference to make the Final Four since George Mason in 2006—a trip that also ended in Indianapolis.

"This is probably the coolest thing that's ever happened in my life," Nored said.

Trailing almost the entire game, No. 2 Kansas State (29-8) rallied to tie it at 54 with 3:09 remaining.

But Butler didn't fold, it only got better. The Bulldogs scored the next nine points to seal the game before Pullen's shot at the buzzer dropped—but offered no consolation.

"It was a great experience, but it hurts that it had to end today," Pullen said.

Enrollment at Butler is in the 4,500 range, about 15 of whom have reminded everyone why college basketball captures America's heart this time every year.

They are weaving a story about the overlooked and underappreciated getting their time in the limelight—the kind of tale every underdog, from Charlie Brown to Gene Hackman, has to love.

But make no mistake—this is not some scrappy, overmatched team that needed a break, no Danny and the Miracles, or Villanova shooting 79 percent to knock off mighty Georgetown.

This is a team that stood toe-to-toe with Syracuse on one night, then Kansas State the next, shutting down two power teams from power conferences with legitimate stars of their own.

Pullen and Clemente didn't score a point for Kansas State until 15 seconds remained in the first half, and it was no matter of luck. Rather, it was the tough, in-your-face defense of Nored and Veasley that did it—smothering a pair of players who had combined for 53 points two nights earlier in a double-overtime win against Xavier.

Clemente finished with 18 and Pullen 14, but they shot a combined 11 for 30.

"Defensively, they just try to hound everybody, try to stay in the lane, pack it in so there's nowhere to drive," Pullen said. "Then they just send five to the glass every time. Did a good job rebounding."

Led by Hayward's nine boards, Butler won that contest, too, 41-29.

Lucky, plucky teams simply don't win the way Butler did. Much like in its 63-59 victory over Syracuse, the Bulldogs held the lead in this one for most of the night, but fell behind briefly toward the end.

Clemente made a 3-pointer with 4:49 left to cap an 8-0 run and give K-State its only lead of the game, 52-51. Teams like Butler are supposed to fold then, right?

Well, not quite.

Hayward got fouled going to the hole and made two free throws to take the lead back, and teammate Matt Howard made one more free throw to make it 54-52. Clemente dribbled for what seemed like forever for a layup to tie, and that was the last significant basket the Wildcats would make.

Coach Frank Martin wouldn't make excuses, but clearly that Xavier game took a lot out of the Wildcats— and it showed at the end.

"We looked tired. We were sluggish but I don't think it was as much about our wrongdoing as it was Butler's right-doing," he said.

With the score tied at 54, Butler took the lead for good on the next possession when Hayward—that rare NBA prospect playing at a mid-major—stretched his entire 6-foot-9 frame to not only collect a too-high, alley-oop pass from Nored, but collect himself and make the shot.

"I've said it already lots of times," Hayward said. "Coach and my teammates put me in that position and sometimes you've just got to make a play, and I was lucky enough to hit it."

Pullen came back with an air ball and Butler pulled away from there, ending Kansas State's equally gritty quest—an effort that will certainly gain the Wildcats more cachet in a state that has long thought about the Jayhawks first.

Big man Curtis Kelly also had 14 points for Kansas State, which shot 38 percent for the game and didn't make a basket outside of 15 feet in the first half.

Credit for that, once again, goes to the Bulldogs, coached by the 33-year-old Stevens, who has refused to buy into the underdog story.

Being a mid-major, he insists, is mainly about money and resources, not about 5-on-5 in a 40-minute game with nothing—or everything—on the line.

Stevens found the players who fit his style—players who like to work hard, don't back down from a challenge and don't care that the big schools didn't come chasing after them.

They're players who loved Hinkle Fieldhouse, the home of the Bulldogs, but also a tourist stopover because it's where the 1980s classic "Hoosiers," starring Hackman, was filmed.

"I can't tell you how many times I've watched that movie," said Hayward, a native of Brownsburg, Ind. "I lost count. Growing up in Indiana, I have watched it so many times. But I definitely love that movie."

Wizards' Arenas to spend 30 days in halfway house

WASHINGTON (AP)—Suspended Washington Wizards star Gilbert Arenas was ordered Friday to spend 30 days in a residence for detention prior to release for his conviction on gun charges following a locker-room confrontation with a teammate.

Along with the time to be spent in a halfway house, designed to help people reintegrate with society, District of Columbia Superior Court Judge Robert E. Morin also sentenced Arenas to 400 hours of community service, which cannot be conducted at basketball clinics, and a $5,000 fine.

Arenas apologized in court, saying, "Every day, I wake up wishing it did not happen."

■ ■ ■

WASHINGTON (AP)—A day after Gilbert Arenas was sentenced to 30 days in a halfway house for bringing guns into the locker room, Wizards team president Ernie Grunfeld reaffirmed that the All-Star guard will be back with Washington next season.

Grunfeld told reporters before the team's game against Utah on Saturday that the Wizards did not plan to void Arenas' contract.

Grunfeld says, "I think people forget that he's still one of the best players in this league."

Arenas avoided jail time for the offense, instead receiving a sentence that also includes two years of probation and 400 hours of community service.

Grunfeld says he has not talked to Arenas recently, although he spoke to Arenas' father.

Washington has lost 14 straight games.

■ ■ ■

Arenas pleaded guilty to violating the city's gun laws in a Dec. 21 incident at Verizon Center. Following an argument over an unpaid gambling debt totaling a few hundred dollars, Arenas brought several guns to the team locker room and set them near Javaris Crittenton's locker with a sign telling him to "PICK 1."

"The evidence is that both of you felt disrespected," Morin told Arenas. "Rather than acting like mature adults, you escalated the incident" by bringing guns to practice.

After sentencing, Arenas' lawyer, Ken Wainstein, said he was pleased with the outcome.

"Judge Morin's decision was fair and measured; it reflected a deep understanding of the relevant facts ... Mr. Arenas is grateful to the court and looks forward to serving the community and once again being a force for good in the District of Columbia," Wainstein said in a statement.

In court papers, prosecutors said Crittenton had a legitimate reason to believe Arenas' threat was genuine.

Prosecutors had wanted Arenas to go to jail for at least three months. They said he lied repeatedly about why the guns were in the locker room and tried to cover up what had happened. They also said he knew bringing guns into D.C. was illegal and has a prior gun conviction.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Christopher Kavanaugh wrote in court papers that "if any other individual—without the fame, power, and the wealth of this defendant—brought four firearms into Washington, D.C., for the purpose of a similar confrontation," they would surely go to jail.

Arenas' lawyers sought probation and community service, arguing the incident was a misguided prank with no intention to harm anyone. They pointed out that the guns were unloaded, that Arenas' lighthearted comments about the incident were misinterpreted, and that he's a good role model who excelled at community service.

"This sad saga has sent a strong message to any and all who might consider bringing guns into the district," defense attorneys wrote.

Arenas' sentence could determine whether the Wizards will attempt to void the remainder of his six-year, $111 million contract, although the players' union has vowed to fight such a move.

Regardless, Arenas' misdeed has helped contribute to the precipitous decline of a franchise, which is headed for its second consecutive last-place finish after years of regularly reaching the playoffs.

AP

Suspended Washington Wizards basketbal player Gilbert Arenas, center, and his attorney Kenneth Wainstein, left, depart Superior Court after a sentencing hearing in Washington, on Friday, March 26, 2010.

Gasol leads Lakers to 109-101 win over Rockets

HOUSTON (AP)—Pau Gasol scored 30 points as the Los Angeles Lakers beat the short-handed Houston Rockets 109-101 on Saturday, getting back on track a night after a terrible outing in Oklahoma City.

The Lakers used a 20-0 run in the last 6 minutes of the second quarter to take a commanding lead and didn't trail after that en route to their eighth win in nine games.

Kobe Bryant, who went to the bench with 5½ minutes left, came up one assist shy of a triple-double, finishing with 17 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

Luis Scola led Houston with 28 points and 10 rebounds.

Jazz 103, Wizards 87

At Washington, Mehmet Okur had 22 points and 11 rebounds as Utah beat Washington, extending the Wizards' team-record losing streak to 15 games.Deron Williams had 20 points and 12 assists for the Jazz, and Carlos Boozer added 22 points—hitting all eight of his second-half shots—and 10 rebounds.Andray Blatche led Washington with 20 points, and Nick Young had 16. The Wizards haven't won since Feb. 28.

Trail Blazers 112, Hornets 101

At New Orleans, Brandon Roy scored 28 points as Portland eliminated New Orleans from playoff contention with its 10th win in 12 games.

Roy hit 11 of his first 12 shots, only two of them layups. He finished 12 of 14 in 32 minutes. LaMarcus Aldridge added 24 points.

Darren Collison had 22 points for New Orleans on 10-of-10 shooting.

Bulls 106, Nets 83

At Chicago, Jannero Pargo scored a season-high 27 points, and Taj Gibson had a career-high 22 points and added 13 rebounds for Chicago.Terrence Williams led New Jersey with 16 points. The NBA-worst Nets were coming off consecutive victories.

Els takes a 1-shot lead at Bay Hill

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Ernie Els is trying to keep his head clear and his game simple.

It seems to be working.

Els finished with two tough pars Saturday at Bay Hill, enough to go from a two-shot deficit to a one-shot lead over Ben Curtis going into the final round of the Arnold Palmer Invitational, and a chance for Els to win his second straight tournament.

"There's a lot of work left," Els said after a 3-under 69, making him the only player to break 70 all three days at Bay Hill. "Obviously, I'm still in a very good position. I would have taken it before the tournament started. I would like to keep working and just try and concentrate on playing good golf tomorrow."

He's playing golf as well as anyone at the moment. Saturday was the fifth time in the last six rounds Els has been atop the leaderboard, dating to his victory at Doral two weeks ago that ended the longest drought—two years without winning—of his career.

The Big Easy is starting to make golf look that way.

He was at 10-under 206, giving himself a chance to win back-to-back on the PGA Tour for the first time in seven years, and to become the first player since Tiger Woods in 2001 to win twice in the Florida swing.

Curtis looked just as good on a blustery day at Bay Hill. He just didn't finish.

The former British Open champion had a two-shot lead until he chopped up the par-5 16th hole from 60 yards short of the green. He bladed a wedge some 70 feet long and three-putted for bogey on the easiest hole at Bay Hill. Then, he went long on the par-3 17th and chipped off the green for another bogey.

Curtis had to make a 6-foot par putt on the 18th to keep it together with a 70, leaving him one shot behind.

"That last putt on 18 was big," Curtis said. "You always want momentum going forward."

They will be in the final group Sunday with Chris Couch, who was headed for a double bogey until a break he felt was long overdue. His approach to the 18th ricocheted along the rocks framing the green, and the third bounce sent the ball onto the green. Two putts later, Couch had a par and a 69 and was at 7-under 209.

"I kept thinking, 'Please, please, bounce on the green, baby, bounce on the green,'" Couch said. "I've never considered myself a very lucky person on the golf course. But that was a great break at the right time."

The final round will be threesomes and start early to avoid thunderstorms in the forecast for Sunday afternoon.

Phil Mickelson was nowhere near the lead. Right when he was starting to build momentum with his putter, Mickelson made only two putts longer than 5 feet and staggered to a 75, leaving him seven shots out of the lead.

"I had a rough round today in that the ball just didn't seem to want to go in the hole," Mickelson said.

The best round—and the best move—belonged to Jim Furyk, coming off a victory last week at Innisbrook. He made the cut on the number, then shot a 66 in the morning when the greens were still relatively soft. He started the day in a tie for 59th. When the third round ended, Furyk was in a tie for sixth, five shots behind.

"I think it was pretty calm and smooth sailing early," Furyk said. "But once I got it to 5 or 6 under, things tightened up a little bit more and I got a little more serious."

Edoardo Molinari, who played with Mickelson, shot a 70 and was at 6-under 210 along with Kevin Na.

Davis Love III started the third round in a four-way tie for the lead, needing a victory at Bay Hill to get into the Masters. He made bogey on the first two holes, hit into the water on the 13th and bogeyed the final hole for a 74, leaving him an outside chance from five shots off the lead.

Els struggled to find a rhythm early in his rounds the first two days. That wasn't the case Saturday. He rarely put any stress on his game, picking up a few birdies early, making birdies on the par 5s on the back nine and dropping only one shot along the way.

Then came the finish.

He managed to hit the green on the 17th, a tough tee shot given the wind off the right, then laid too far back off the tee on No. 18, leaving him 210 yards with water down the right side. Els went left into a bunker, and saved his par.

"It was a bit of a grind, but that was the nature of the course," he said.

Curtis knew what not to do over the closing holes, but perhaps he thought too much.

Standing over a delicate sand wedge in front of the 16th, the last thing he thought to himself was, "Don't chunk it." He didn't, sending it to the back of the green for a three-putt from 70 feet. And on the 17th, he reminded himself not to miss it to the right, and wound up pulling it to the left, well beyond the green.

Still, he couldn't complain with his position—one shot behind Els, in contention for the first time this year.

"I can shoot even par, 1 over and win the tournament. Or I can shoot 3 under, 4 under and lose," Curtis said. "It doesn't matter what he does or anybody else does. I've got to play my game and be smart, and take advantage of some opportunities if they come."

Briones draws first blood in USSP Mother's Day tourney

Larry Briones won the first slot in USSP's Mother's Day 8-ball Champions Tournament Thursday night. Briones also won the first qualifying tournament for the St. Patrick's Day showdown.

The next preliminary match is Sunday. Winners of Thursday and Sunday tournaments will face off May 9 for the $100 first prize, with $50 for second, trophies from Pacific Amusement and in-house prizes. Briones and Sunday's winner will also have a showdown at 8:00 Thursday for a USSP t-shirt.

Briones rallied past Mark Butac and defeated Taylor Watanabe to head the winner's bracket. Watanabe sent Erina Olkeriil to the loser's column. Olkeriil eliminated Butac, but fell to Watanabe again.

Watanabe took the rematch from Briones, then lost a close deciding game.

"We're sorry to give the players such short notice, but we started again because players were dropping by last week to see if we'd begun another qualifying round. Even Thursday, there were several players who showed up, but we'd already finished the first round and couldn't accommodate them," USSP's Ken Phillips said.

All games are double-elimination 8-ball, following Billiard Congress of America rules. Sign-up starts at 7:30 pm. For more information, please contact Ken or Rose Phillips at 233-1984. ***(PR)***

SWEEP

From Page 28

topped the elimination round with a clean 3-0 record before losing in the finals.

Kagman High School's Juan Maratita paced the MISO All-Stars with his 21 points and was among the Top 3 players in the boys U17 division. Joining him and receiving a gym bag from Settsu were Mt. Carmel's Sean Sablan, and Southern High School's Christian Mizer.

Southern finished third in BAN-MI-organized tournament, while Settsu's boys team was fourth.

In the U17 girls finals, the MISO All-Stars dethroned 2009 champion Settsu.

Settsu, which won the finals last year against the same team, 61-44, failed to make it back-to-back as they had more failure that success in the 3-point area.

Of the more than 20 attempts from beyond the arc, Settsu canned only one.

The MISO All-Stars pulled up for shots from the 3-point region only on a couple of occasions and made five, with four of them coming from Roxanne Duenas.

The MISO All-Stars countered Settsu's off shooting night with a methodical half-court offensive set with Lia Rangamar holding the leather and feeding either Duenas or Jaime Mendoza.

Duenas led the MISO All-Stars with 26 points, while Rangamar and Mendoza chipped in 20 and 18 markers, respectively.

Honami Inui paced Settsu with 15 points, while Hirai Nakamori added 14.

Rangamar was among the Top 3 female players recognized at the awards ceremony, joining the company of Mt. Carmel's Kaylani Lebria and Kagman High School's Nikita Hofschneider.

Boys Finals

MISO All-Stars 77 – Maratita 21, Hossain 19, Mettao 10, Metran 8, Caro 6, Darag 4, Lueng 4, Manalili 3, Moran 2, Norita 2.

COPSSA All-Stars 74 – Jeon 23, Taylor 22, S. Sablan 15, D. Kautz 6, Bo 4, Manalo 3, J. Sablan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 16-19, 42-42, 60-55, 77-74.

Girls Finals

MISO All-Stars 75 – Duenas 26, Rangamar 20, Mendoza 18, Williams 8, Joseph 8.

Settsu 54 – Inui 15, Nakamori 14, Shiokawa 6, Maeike 5, Mizuta 4m Iwasaki 2, Oida 2, Takahashi 2, Yamasaki 2.

Scoring by quarters: 20-14, 35-38, 51-41, 75-54.

MIEKO

From Page 28

eryone changed to mud tires," Carey said.

It stopped raining on race day, but the current in the warm waters off the Port Authority Beach in Piti was a bit strong, pushing swimmers away from the course. Despite this condition, Carey had the fifth best time in the swim leg at 26:51 and moved out of the water with Gardner and Japanese pro Taro Shirato.

"I felt good as I came out of the water with Sam and Taro. We all started the bike together. The first 5K of the bike was an uphill road and then we started the red mud. I was worried about the mud, but it was not so bad. The XTERRA Guam bike course was like a BMX course. I was having a lot of fun, but I really have to pick the right line or I can have a bad crash," said Carey, who timed in at 1:50:27 in the bike leg for fifth best.

The XTERRA Guam bike course began in Piti and climbed up Nimitz Hill, through the technical terrain of Mt. Alutom then back via Mannengon Hills.

"I really tried to check the line and I wish we had a course like that on Saipan. The mud wasn't so bad and I came back to transition ready for the run. The run was really fun. After a long climb we run about 4K in a river. I had to slide down the waterfalls and I screamed every time I went down. Sometimes the water was so deep that I have to swim to the other side. The nice thing about this course was the water let you cool down, but it also made your legs tired to run through. The water was very cold and clear," the Saipan bet added, completing the run part in 52:07 (fifth best).

Joining Mieko in XTERRA Guam was husband, Kevin, Russ Quinn, and Kieran Daly.

Daly, who won XTERRA Sport early this month, topped his age group competition in last weekend's race. He ruled the 45 to 49 age group, timing in at 18:59 in the swim leg, 2:05:18 in the bike race, and 1:08:24 in the run portion for a total time of 3:32:41.

Quinn was in the same age group and finished third with a combined time of 3:48:27, while Kevin completed only the swim (22:57) and bike (2:32:09) legs.

MASTERS

From Page 28

games are scheduled every Sunday from 1pm to 5pm.

The league is open only to 35-and-above players. Interested players should have turned 35 before the league starts and must be a member of the association and pay the annual membership fee of only $5.

All teams are required to be present at the opening ceremony at 6pm, as squads that will play in the first game will be determined via a draw. Teams are also allowed to have only 13 players on their rosters and pay half of the $300 entrance fee. The balance should be paid before the team's third game or face elimination in the league.

The league will have a round-robin format in the regular season with only the Top 8 teams advancing to the single-elimination playoffs.

MBFNMI have two other rules that will be strictly implemented in the league. These are putting the MBFNMI logo on the top left of their jersey and letting all players play in all four quarters of the match.

"Unless, a player is unable to do so, MBFNMI officials will monitor that this requirement is met," MBFNMI board chair Ray Lizama said in an e-mail to Saipan Tribune.

"As the chairman of the MBFNMI board, I am inviting all fans of various sports to join us and be apart of this historical day. MBFNMI will be having a fundraising during the opening ceremony and throughout the season there will prizes to raffle, from our sponsors," Lizama said.

Prizes include Tech Tech tickets, McDonald's certificates, Gold Gym passes, PIC certificates, Hyatt Regency certificates, MBFNMI T-Shirts, IT&E products, and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan certificates.

"Aside from prizes, there will be performances from Inatuas Dancers, Big Beats Band, MHS Color Guards, and Pacific Flowers Dancers," said Lizama, who led the formation of the Masters group on Feb. 16 this year.

"The MBFNMI board of directors, extend their outmost gratitude and appreciation for stepping up to the plate to our main sponsor Pacific Trading, Co. and co-sponsors Tan Sui Lin Foundations, Island Apparel, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, Micronesian Brokers, Trench Tech, Fotten Gaga, Mc Donald's, Gold's Gym, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, NMC-ITT Media Dept., MHS Color Guards, Pacific Flowers Dancers, Inatuas Dancers, Big Beats Band, Mike Salas, Power 99, KZMI Radio Station, and KSPN2," Lizama said.

RED

From Page 28

scoring three runs. Jequinn Guerrero came to bat only once and hit a three-run triple at the top of the third to help the Red Sox's cause. Jole Reyes started at the mound for the Red Sox, pitched 1.2 innings and had three strikeouts.

The Enforcers scored only at the bottom of the second inning with Jay Repeki making it home on Red Songao' sacrifice fly Ethan Lizama's single driving Cedric Camacho home.

Twins 13, Kagman Lions 12

In the second game, the Twins survived the Kagman Lions, 13-12.

Third pitcher Jun Sablan helped preserved the win, striking out two batters at the bottom of the sixth inning.

A two-run triple from J.P. Taitano at the bottom of the sixth inning allowed the Lions to cut the lead to one, 12-13. At the top of the last inning, the Twins were done after only three batters. At the bottom of the last, Sablan struck out Shawn Chaundry and then first baseman Darion Jones caught a grounder and tagged out second batter Marcelo Ogo. The game ended when Sablan struck out Jim Ada.

Survivors 21, Strikers 5

In the first game of the day, McDonald's Survivors clobbered the Shell Strikers, 21-5.

Up by only four, 9-5, after four complete innings, the Survivors erupted for 12 runs at the top of the fifth to walk away with an easy win via 10-run mercy rule.

Shortstop Jerry Kintol went 5-for-5 at the plate and scored five runs. James Kintaro went 4-for-5, hit a solo homer and one double, and tallied four runs.

The Strikers made all their five runs at the bottom of the second inning.

Juniors Fielders 17, Survivors 9

The Fielders played strong in the last two innings to pull off a 17-9 triumph over the Survivors.

The Fielders were ahead by only one run, 9-8, after four complete innings when they logged four runs apiece in the fifth and sixth inning to top the Survivors. The Fielders capitalized on an erratic Survivors defense in the last two innings to score five runs off the latter's miscues.

Poland Masaharu led the Fielders with four runs on a 3-for-5 performance at bat. Cody Kaipat also hit 3-for-5 and added three runs.

Red Sox 5, TSL A's 4

In the other Junior League game, the Red Sox eked out a 5-4 win over the TSL Athletics.

Center fielder Jonathan Cabrera singled at the top of the seventh inning and drove home Jerome Reyes for the winning run.

At the bottom of the last inning, the A's failed to force an extra inning, as the best it could to was reach first base. The A's first two batters were beaten to first base. The third batter walked, while the fourth one flied out to right field, ending the game in Red Sox's favor.

Seniors Hustlers 17, D-9ers 3

In the first Senior League match, the Hustlers clobbered D-9ers, 17-3.

The Hustlers leaned on a 12-run top of the fifth to break the game wide open.

Before the Hustlers' rally, they were ahead by only one, 1-0, on Tim Deleon Guerrero's solo homer.

The Hustlers started the top of the second with A.J Taitano having beaten to first, but since then, the team's next eight batters made it home and four even had a chance to have another trip at the plate. D-9ers never recovered from thereon.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Boston	47	25	.653	–
Toronto	35	35	.493	11 1/2
New York	26	46	.361	21
Philadelphia	26	47	.356	21 1/2
New Jersey	9	64	.123	38 1/2

Southeast Division

x-Orlando	51	22	.699	–
x-Atlanta	46	26	.639	4 1/2
Miami	39	34	.534	12
Charlotte	38	34	.528	12 1/2
Washington	21	51	.292	29 1/2

Central Division

y-Cleveland	57	16	.781	–
Milwaukee	39	32	.549	17
Chicago	34	38	.472	22 1/2
Indiana	27	46	.370	30
Detroit	23	49	.319	33 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Dallas	48	25	.658	–
San Antonio	43	28	.606	4
Memphis	38	34	.528	9 1/2
Houston	36	36	.500	11 1/2
New Orleans	34	40	.459	14 1/2

Northwest Division

Denver	48	25	.658	–
Utah	48	26	.649	– 1/2
Oklahoma City	44	27	.620	3
Portland	44	29	.603	4
Minnesota	14	59	.192	34

Pacific Division

x-L.A. Lakers	54	19	.740	–
Phoenix	45	26	.639	7 1/2
L.A. Clippers	27	45	.375	26 1/2
Sacramento	24	49	.329	30
Golden State	20	52	.278	33 1/2

x-clinched playoff spot
y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games
Los Angeles 109, Houston 101
Utah 103, Washington 87
Portland 112, New Orleans 101
Chicago 106, New Jersey 83

ARNOLD PALMER INVITATIONAL SCORES

ORLANDO, Florida (AP)–Scores Saturday from the $6 million Arnold Palmer Invitational at the 7,353-yard, par 72 Bay Hill Club & Lodge:

THIRD ROUND

Ernie Els	68-69-69–206
Ben Curtis	70-67-70–207
Chris Couch	70-70-69–209
Edoardo Molinari	70-70-70–210
Kevin Na	68-70-72–210
Jim Furyk	71-74-66–211
Kevin Streelman	68-75-68–211
Boo Weekley	70-73-68–211
Derek Lamely	71-70-70–211
Retief Goosen	71-67-73–211
Davis Love III	66-71-74–211
Ryuji Imada	73-70-69–212
J.P. Hayes	70-72-70–212
Steve Marino	70-70-72–212
D.J. Trahan	69-68-75–212
Bill Haas	72-71-70–213
Tim Petrovic	74-68-71–213
Dustin Johnson	71-70-72–213
Robert Allenby	68-73-72–213
K.J. Choi	71-69-73–213
George McNeill	69-71-73–213
Phil Mickelson	71-67-75–213
Stuart Appleby	70-74-70–214
Matt Every	74-70-70–214
Brandt Snedeker	72-72-70–214
Briny Baird	72-72-70–214
Sean O'Hair	70-73-71–214
Colin Montgomerie	72-71-71–214
Nathan Green	69-73-72–214
Jason Day	71-70-73–214
Jason Dufner	69-72-73–214
Daniel Chopra	74-71-70–215
Scott Verplank	75-70-70–215
John Senden	71-74-70–215
Ryo Ishikawa	74-70-71–215
Stephen Ames	73-71-71–215
Charles Howell III	72-72-71–215
Rod Pampling	74-70-71–215
Marc Leishman	70-73-72–215
Bo Van Pelt	72-70-73–215
Henrik Stenson	67-78-71–216
Stewart Cink	73-72-71–216
Kris Blanks	74-69-73–216
Erik Compton	72-71-73–216
Ben Crane	69-74-73–216
D.A. Points	73-72-72–217
Jerry Kelly	71-74-72–217
Charl Schwartzel	74-71-72–217
Carl Pettersson	71-73-73–217
Jonathan Byrd	71-73-73–217
Pat Perez	69-74-74–217
Chris DiMarco	69-73-75–217
Heath Slocum	69-72-76–217
Mike Weir	67-73-77–217
J.B. Holmes	66-74-77–217
Brian Davis	74-71-73–218
Nick Watney	74-71-73–218
Ryan Moore	72-72-74–218
Rickie Fowler	73-72-74–219
Rory Sabbatini	75-70-74–219
Tim Clark	74-70-75–219
Bryce Molder	74-70-75–219
Hunter Mahan	71-73-75–219
Kevin Sutherland	70-73-76–219
Steve Stricker	69-71-79–219
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Trevor Immelman	71-74-76–221
Tim Herron	73-72-76–221
Skip Kendall	73-71-77–221
Joe Ogilvie	76-66-79–221
Josh Teater	72-71-79–222
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Paul Goydos	70-72-82–224
Garrett Willis	72-73-80–225
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BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The Week in Sports

Triathletes still own week's best show

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

For the second straight week, triathletes were in center stage via the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon.

The on-road race drew more than 100 triathletes on and off-island and had United Kingdom's Sam Gardner winning the men's pro event and Korean national triathlon team member Dan Bi Hong ruling the distaff side.

Gardner completed the 2-kilometer swim, 60-km bike, and 15-km run in two hours, 59 minutes, and 23 seconds to beat Canadian's Mike Vine anew and a bunch of young Korean athletes. Hong timed in at 3:20:47 to pull off an upset over American pro Shonny Vanlandingham (3:23:53) and XTERRA Saipan six-time champion Renata Bucher (3:24:36).

The weekend when triathletes toured the island, there were also others sports events held at the various facilities on Saipan.

The 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball had their games at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield and Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield with Ol' Aces and Patriots winning in the Junior League.

In the Major League, Survivors handed the Twins their first loss. Other winners in the Majors were Braves, Falcons, Red Sox, Dragons, Hustlers, and Ol'Aces.

Over at the Oleai Sports Complex Field, NMIF had its men's league. Wild Bill's and K. Seniors kept their records clean after prevailing over Inter Godfather's, 2-1, and K. Juniors, 2-0, respectively, in Week 3. Also winning in the third week of the league was the Tan Holdings against the Young Guns, 3-2.

Still in football, NMIFA has its U14 league at the Hopwood Junior High School Field. Winning their matches in Week 4 were Paire FC-Red, Tan Holdings FC-1, and Matansa in the boys U14 and Paire and Matansa in girls U14.

In the U18 games at the CPA Field, Matansa topped Paire in the girls division, while Paire and MP United prevailed in the boys division.

Other leagues/tournaments on Saipan continued last week with the Shirley's caging having their games at the JP Center Basketball Court, the Chamolinian softball league at the Capital Hill Ballfield and the Saipan Major League at the "Tan Ko" ballfield.

Before the week ends, Olympian Jon Sakovich completed a four-day swim clinic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. Sakovich met with Saipan Swim Club swimmers and coaches and several triathletes to share tips and techniques in swimming. He also spoke with parents and students, explaining how to get an athletic scholarship in college.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Renata Bucher, left, runs with the barefoot Chang Wang Jang along Beach Road during the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon.

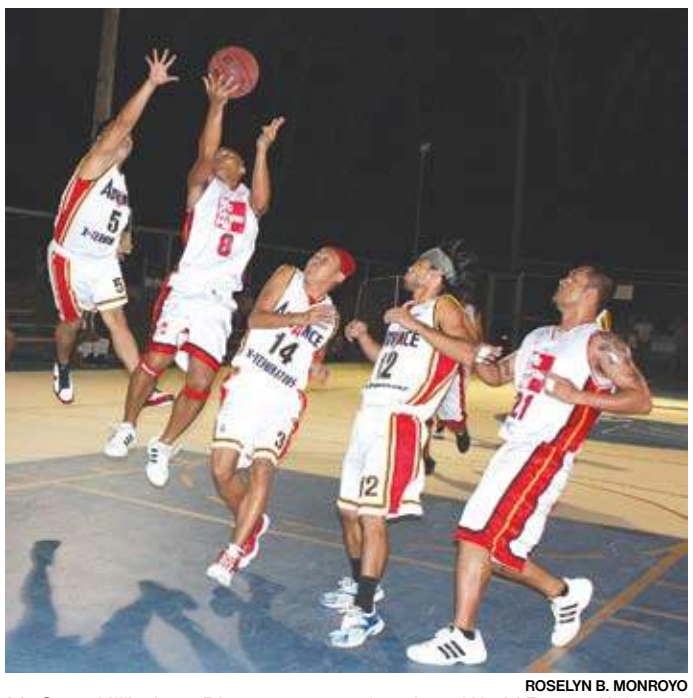
ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Riders pedal up to Paupau during the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Philippines' Arland Masasieb finishes the first lap of the 2-kilometer swim leg in the waters of Pacific Islands Club during the 2010 Tagaman Triathlon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
A Paire striker, left, battles two Tan Holdings players for the ball during their game in the boys U18 division of the NMIFA youth league at the CPA Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Jon Sakovich, left, conducts a clinic for Saipan Swim Club members at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi last week.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The JPO Enforcers pose for a group photo before the start of their game against the Red Sox in the Majors division of the SLLB on Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
McGraw-Hill's Jerry Diaz goes up against three World Resort/Advance defenders during their game in the Shirley's caging at the JP Center Basketball Court last week.

W. Virginia beats Kentucky to reach Final Four

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

73 days to go — SOUTH AFRICA 2010 FIFA WORLD CUP

Sweep for MISO All-Stars

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The MISO All-Stars had a double celebration, as they ruled both the boys and girls divisions of the 2010 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament.

The MISO All-Stars edged COPPSA All-Stars in the boys U17 finals, 77-74, on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. In the girls U17 finals, the MISO All-Stars dominated the visiting Settsu Red Impulse, 75-54.

Marianas High School's John Darag scored only four points in the MISO All-Stars' win, but canned important free throws in the closing seconds of the game to hand the COPSSA All-Stars their lone loss in the two-day tournament.

Darag drilled a pair of charities in the last 2.9 seconds after drawing a foul from Luther Taylor. Before Darag's free throws, the MISO All-Stars were hanging on to a 75-74 lead. The Jose Tumaquip and Francis San Nicolas-coached MISO All-Stars went for an inbound with Darag receiving it and the COPSSA All-Stars deciding to give up a foul to send the MHS player to the stripe.

COPSSA All-Stars, who were composed of players from Grace Christian Academy, Mt. Carmel, Agape Christian School, and Saipan International School, gambled on Darag, hoping he would miss. However, Darag made the crucial free throws.

In the ensuing COPSSA All-Stars' possession, Sean Sablan pulled up for a game-tying trey and faltered. Dae Min Jeon grabbed the offensive rebound, but ran out of time to make an attempt.

The MISO All-Stars received a championship trophy, donated by Settsu, for ruling the four-team tournament.

The MISO All-Stars finished second in the round-robin event to advance to the finals, while the COPSSA All-Stars

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MISO All-Stars' Michael Moran, left, is hounded by COPSSA All-Stars' Sean Sablan during their title game in the 2010 Settsu-Saipan Friendship Basketball Tournament on Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Red Sox rout JPO Enforcers

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Bank of Saipan Red Sox needed only three and a half innings to whip the JPO Enforcers, 16-2, during their game in the Majors division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball on Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Catcher Craig Aguon led the Red Sox's rout of the Enforcers, going 3-for-3, hitting a solo homer, and

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Red Sox's Jonathan Camacho waits for the pitch during their game against the JPO Enforcers in the Majors division of the 2010 Saipan Little League Baseball on Saturday at the Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan Ballfield.

Mieko finishes third in XTERRA Guam

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan triathlete Mieko Carey still had enough juice left to join the 2010 XTERRA Guam and finished third in the Saturday race.

Carey was among the four Saipan triathletes who competed in the off-road race, joining the company of 2010 XTERRA champions Sam Gardner and Renata Bucher.

Carey, who competed in XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman, completed the 1-kilometer swim, 31-km bike race, and 8.2-km trail run in three hours and 43 seconds to finish third in the women's division behind Bucher (2:52:07) and American pro Shonny Vanlandingham (2:55:11). Carey was fourth overall, as Gardner finished ahead of the rest of the field with a time of 2:43:55, followed by Bucher and Vanlandingham.

"On Friday we had a practice ride at the course. It was raining so the red mud in Guam was very sticky and slippery. Our tires stopped spinning because there was so much mud on them. It rained on Friday all day so everyone was worried about the course and ev-

See MIEKO on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan's Mieko Carey, center poses with Sam Gardner, right, and Shonny Vanlandingham after completing the 2010 XTERRA Guam on Saturday.

16 teams entered in Masters caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Masters Basketball Federation of Northern Mariana Islands will be holding its inaugural league on April 6 with 16 teams competing for the championship.

Of the 16 teams, the following have already named their squads: IT&E, Konflikt, Easy Does It, Island Apparel "Below the Rim", Dante Olivos Teams 1, Dante Olivos Team 2, and Ol'Aces.

Games will be played at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium four times a week. There will be one match on weekdays or every Tuesday and Thursday, starting at 6:30pm. Weekend games will be every Saturday and Sunday. Four matches will be played every Saturday from 10am to 5pm, while only two

See MASTERS on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The pioneers of the Masters Basketball Federation of Northern Mariana Islands pose with FIBA Oceania development officer Ryan Burns, standing left, during the Australian's official visit to Saipan last month.